

"The Congress and administration have clearly demonstrated a willingness to explode the federal budget deficit by giving a \$1.5 trillion tax cut to wealthy corporations and individuals," he added. "When rural America asks for a far more modest budget request, they can't manage to find a way to lend a hand."

BWC Rebate: In the wake of the Bureau of Workers' Compensation's announcement that it is issuing an employer premium rebate to the tune of \$1.5 billion, the Ohio Association of Justice is questioning a challenge to an appellate court ruling that found some "scheduled loss awards" should be paid in lump sums.

BWC was paying those awards to workers who suffer amputations or loss of use due to industrial injuries on a biweekly basis.

"It is time to ask, when did the Ohio workers' compensation system stop being about injured workers?" John Van Doorn, government affairs director, said in a release. "We are all in favor of job creation in this state, but let's share some of the BWC's financial surplus with the injured workers who the system was constitutionally created to protect."

Advocate Seeks KY Seat: Longtime Ohio Statehouse fixture Col Owens is looking to enter the other side of the legislative political realm - just in another state.

Mr. Owens, who served for 30 years as senior attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Southwest Ohio and was involved in Advocates for Ohio's Future and other groups backing health and human services funding, is running as a Democrat in Kentucky's 69th House District.

The lifelong Kentucky resident's candidacy is the subject of a fundraiser next month at the home of former Ohio Rep. Ted Celeste and wife Bobbie, 1230 Oakland Ave. in Grandview Heights.

Those interested in attending or seeking more information on the event, set for 5:30-7 p.m. May 10, should RSVP to Cathy Levine at cathyjlevine@gmail.com or 614-313-7478.

Sign Up For Gongwer Text Alerts

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The system allows subscribers to request text notifications regarding the publication of the *Gongwer Ohio Report*, breaking news updates, media clips and legislative floor

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For questions about Gongwer bill tracking services, contact Gongwer at gongwer@gongwer-oh.com or 614.221.1992.

Governor's Appointments

Columbus State Community College Board of Trustees: Rick Ritzler of Galena (Delaware Co.) has been appointed to the for a term beginning April 25, 2018, and ending August 31, 2023.

Waterways Safety Council: Amy Dingle of Dayton (Montgomery Co.) has been appointed to the for a term beginning April 25, 2018, and ending January 30, 2021.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Friday, April 27

STEM Designation Committee, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, May 9

Veterinary Medical Licensing Board, Rm. 1914, 77 S. High St., Columbus, 8:30 a.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Tom Gallick, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Daily Activity Planner for Thursday, April 26

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

BWC Board of Directors, 30 W. Spring St., Room 3 on Level 2, Columbus, 8 a.m.
Facilities Construction Commission, Rm. 121, Statehouse, Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Deadline to file pre-primary campaign finance reports

Rep. Glenn Holmes (D-McDonald) fundraiser, Vernon's Italian Ristorante, 720 Youngstown-Warren Road, Niles, 5 p.m., (Event Sponsor \$1500, Supporter \$1000, Friend \$500, Table Sponsor \$300, Individual \$60 to Committee to Elect Glenn Holmes)

Rep. Nathan Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) fundraiser, Berry's Restaurant, 15 W. Main Street, Norwalk, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$250 to Nathan Manning for Ohio)

Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) fundraiser, Aloft Columbus Westerville, 32 Heatherdown Drive, Westerville, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$250 to Citizens for Anne Gonzales)

Rep. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus) fundraiser, The Lincoln Cafè, 740 E. Long St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (\$250, \$100, \$50, \$25 to Friends of Hearcel F. Craig)

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Tom Gallick, Staff Writers

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From: Policy Matters Ohio, Ben Stein
Sent: Saturday, April 28, 2018 8:06 AM
To: Snider, Grace
Subject: Setting the Agenda: News from Policy Matters



Setting the Agenda: News from Policy Matters



Democratic gubernatorial candidates signal their unanimous support in response to a question about clean energy and green jobs

Framing the debate: Democratic gubernatorial candidates had one last chance to make their case to Northeast Ohio last week. Joe Schiavoni, Richard Cordray, Dennis Kucinich and Bill O'Neill debated before a standing room only crowd in Cleveland Heights, where they articulated their visions for Ohio. With Ivan Conard of the Young Black Dems, our director Amy Hanauer moderated the debate, pushing for straight answers to questions about jobs, education, clean energy and more. You can stream video of the event [here](#), or listen to ideastream's

coverage [here](#). Early voting is already under way, and Primary Day is May 8th. See you at the polls!

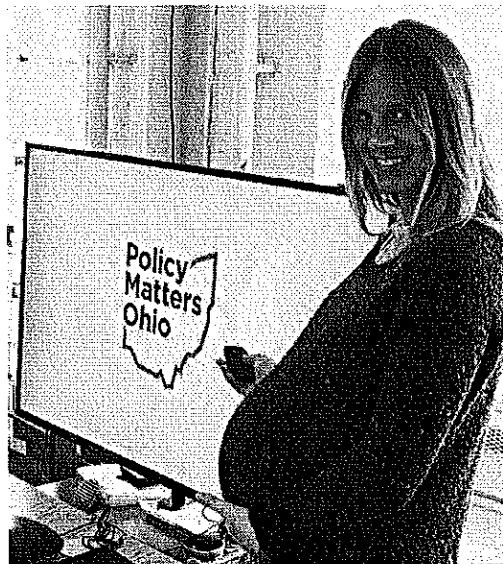
Platform in Progress: In this crucial election year, Ohio needs candidates who embrace a research-based progressive platform. [*A Winning Economic Agenda for Ohio's Working Families*](#) provides that. The report, a collaboration with our friends at [Innovation Ohio](#), proposes investing in infrastructure, manufacturing, childcare and education. It calls to restore adequate taxes, protect workers, and reduce discrimination, addiction and incarceration. And it is a living document: We'll fold in feedback from people across the state, gathered at public forums throughout the summer. Huge thanks to our Hannah Halbert and IO's Terra Goodnight for doing the heavy lifting to get this report to press. The first forum is May 16th in Columbus. Stay tuned for details!

If there were any doubt: The Trump Tax law showers benefits on the most affluent Ohioans, while cutting the basics for the rest of us. Get the details in a new [report](#) from the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. Our Zach Schiller's Tax Day [release](#), finds that middle-income Ohioans average an \$800 cut, while the top one percent take home an additional \$40,190. The result will be an estimated \$1.9 trillion deficit explosion. To pay for it, the Trump administration and its allies in Congress plan to squeeze American workers and caregivers, blocking access to crucial safety net programs for millions.

SNAP works, new bill doesn't: To pay for these lavish tax cuts, the House Agriculture Committee passed the Farm Bill, which threatens over 1.4 million Ohioans who need food assistance to get enough to eat. It erects needless barriers by expanding work requirements, stiffening penalties, and cutting off food aid for hungry Americans. Victoria Jackson's new [report](#) finds these measures fail to increase employment, don't help the economy, and leave millions of Americans hungrier. Contact your [congress member](#) now to resist this cruel, counterproductive bill.

What would you do with \$9 billion?: Like other state spending, tax expenditures should have a purpose, and should be regularly evaluated to determine effectiveness. Last year's HB 9 established the

Tax Expenditure Review Committee to do just that. Ohio spends \$9 billion annually on these breaks. Zach recently testified, advocating careful analysis and regular reapproval of every tax expenditure, rather than allowing them to continue indefinitely. Contact your legislator if you can think of better ways than tax breaks to spend \$9 billion.



Caitlin Johnson in the Policy Matters offices

Paid family leave: Communications Director Caitlin Johnson will have her first child in June! While we'll likely pressure her to bring the little guy in for a visit, we offer paid leave, and we plan to let her spend her first few months of motherhood bonding with her son and getting her bearings as a new mom. In her recent blog, Caitlin acknowledges how fortunate she is: Only 13% of American private sector workers have access to paid leave. Policy can fix this and Ohio leaders are stepping up: State Reps. Janine Boyd and Kristin Boggs, and State Sen. Charleta Tavares have proposed bills to create the Ohio Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. **Check out the Ohio Women's Public Policy Network's advocacy toolkit for ways you can promote the bill.**

Sarah Silverman and Policy Matters: Comedian Sarah Silverman called out Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos on Twitter for his low pay of

workers. Check out this [video](#) to see where those findings came from. Want the receipts? Check Zach's [recent research](#) on Amazon's exploitative practices.

Out and about: In the last two weeks, Amy moderated the Democratic governor's forum; Victoria moderated a panel on "Realizing education potential" at Case's Schubert Center for Child Studies; we co-hosted a screening of the documentary *Zero Weeks* with a panel discussion, moderated by Caitlin and featuring Representative Boyd and Max Gerboe from SEIU Local 1; Zach testified on tax expenditures; and [Wendy](#) testified on the sales tax exemption for oil and gas companies.

Coming up: On Saturday, the Coalition for Hispanic/Latino Issues and Progress holds its [23rd annual leadership conference](#), including A Community Conversation on the Status of the Hispanic/Latinx Community, with our Daniel Ortiz. Wendy Patton will appear on *In Focus with Mike Kallmeyer* to discuss Medicaid work requirements on Spectrum Cable channels 1311, 510, and 511, Sunday, April 29 at 10:30 and 11:30 am, and Monday at 7:30 am. Amanda Woodrum will be on *Face the State with Scott Light* for a roundtable on health care and Medicaid on WBNS TV10 in Columbus Sunday, May 6th at 11:30 am. Cynthia Connolly will host a table top at Cleveland Public Theater's event [Station Hope](#) on May 5th as part of their *Activate Hope* installation, from 6:30-10:00 pm at St. John's. Tune in or join us at these great community conversations.

[VIEW ONLINE](#)

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Columbus Office

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Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: (614) 221-4505
Fax: (614) 221-4507

STAY CONNECTED:



= A

From: Jeff Clayton

Sent: Tuesday, May 1, 2018 7:00 AM

To: Snider, Grace

Subject: Arnold Foundation Admits the Truth: It Funded Lawsuits to End Money Bail in Houston and Elsewhere



= A

The Arnold Foundation and the "not so secret" mission to end bail...

The Houston-based Laura and John Arnold Foundation has been going around the country promoting Public Safety Assessment as the gold standard in scientifically sorting defendants into categories, making recommendations as to what the conditions of release on bail should be.

Curiously, while the tool often recommends detention, the tool never recommends or even considers release on a bail bond. As a result, this “science” is then used to deny a critical constitutional right.

The Arnold Foundation has long claimed that they are simply in the “objective” science business – skin in the game except to provide judges better information so that they can confirm their “hunches.”

Arnold Foundation Launches Expansion of Public Safety Assessment Tool

The truth and only the truth. The Arnold Foundation admitted that it is funding the lawsuits to eliminate bail. In a recent article, it was noted that the Arnold Foundation is a “important ally” in the effort to eliminate all financial conditions of bail.

“Most notably, efforts funded by the MacArthur Foundation and the Laura and John Arnold Foundation have forged partnerships with local jurisdictions to change how the “front end” of the criminal justice system works, to reduce the number of people swept into the incarceration pipeline.” – With the Help of Top Funders, This Group is Taking the Criminal Justice System to Court

There’s been a dramatic surge of new philanthropic giving in this space in recent years, with foundations moving strategically to tackle a decentralized challenge. Most notably, efforts funded by the MacArthur Foundation and the Laura and John Arnold Foundation have forged partnerships with local jurisdictions to change how the “front end” of the criminal justice system works, to reduce the number of people swept into the incarceration pipeline.

That’s where Civil Rights Corps comes in, an organization dedicated to challenging criminal justice in court. It was founded just two years ago by a young lawyer named Alec Karakatsanis who, with a more seasoned lawyer and nonprofit leader, Eric Halperin—now the CEO—and is staffed by a small but growing team of mostly attorneys. – Inside Philanthropy, April 24, 2018

Wait a minute, let’s think about this. The Arnold Foundation goes to Houston and convinces the County that their neutral version of pretrial risk assessment is something that the County should adopt. They do – all while funding litigation against the very counties, including Harris County, which it provides services. Of course, The Civil Rights Corps, the proverbial legal witch hunter for the Arnold Foundation, carries out the marching orders for Arnold by suing the pants off of many jurisdictions.

How any local official can tell the constituents they serve that they have an objective vendor in beyond us. This is a tool that is calibrated to achieve a specific political and legal result, that is absolutely clear.

We call on the Arnold Foundation to release all donation records immediately so that those wh with the Arnold Foundation can become aware if Arnold is funding entities that seek to, let's ju compel, the use of the Arnold Foundation tool when the constitutional right to bail goes away c Arnold Foundation's efforts.

We believe the Arnold Feundation is completely tainted on this issue. What began as perhaps a intentioned attempt to improve the pretrial release system in criminal justice under Anne Milg Vice President of Criminal Justice at the Laura and Arnold Foundation, is now nothing more th tank behind the wholesale destruction of accountable pretrial release. Arnold plays architect, v implementor of their risk assessment instrument – while hiding behind an iron clad contract th jurisdiction that uses the tool must sign.

The Foundation might as well come clean—their goal is to eliminate all financial conditi and they are spending money directly to make that a reality. Arnold needs to stop snowing ove officials with their “awe-shucks, we’re just data scientists” routine. Obviously, this completely question the objectivity of the tool itself, and should leave public officials thinking, what we hav ourselves into? A debacle, that’s what.

The Arnold Foundation has demonstrated an intent to deny the right to bail, and is therefore a conspirator in the attempt to trammel the constitutional right to bail for all Americans.

As we continue to expose this tainted Foundation, who is compiling records on millions of Amer no oversight, we would encourage local officials to start asking hard questions. In Harris Count where the County had to pay \$7 million to defend a lawsuit that their “free vendor” literally fun them, we’re not sure they would be too happy with such a conflict of interest.

With the Arnold Foundation recently announcing the addition of over 200 more jurisdictions t in their “Safety and Justice Challenge,” how many more lawsuits will we see? How many m records will Arnold compile at their New York clearinghouse of criminal information? How ma victims of violence will see their attacker freed on nothing more than just a “promise= 2 to app

Jeff Clayton

Executive Director
American Bail Coalition

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More about the American Bail Coalition...

The American Bail Coalition is the national trade association of commercial bail insurance underwriters whose members are underwriting criminal bail bonds throughout the United States of America.

The Coalition's primary focus is to protect the constitutional right to bail by working with local and state policymakers to bring to the system of release from custody pending trial.

Jeff Clayton, Esq. is the Executive Director/Policy Director and can be reached at jclayton@americanbail.org or (877) 958-61

Visit the American Bail Coalition



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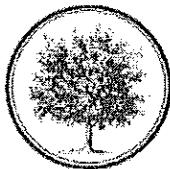
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Jeff Clayton, Esq. is the Executive Director/Policy Director and can be reached at jclayton@americanbail.org or (877) 958-61

Visit the American Bail Coalition



From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, May 1, 2018 11:02 AM
To: Snider, Grace
Subject: The Buckeye Institute: Ohio's Medicaid Waiver Request is First Step to Fixing a Broken System



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms
(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 1, 2018

The Buckeye Institute: Ohio's Medicaid Waiver Request is First Step to Fixing a Broken System

Columbus, OH -- Rea S. Hederman Jr., executive director of the Economic Research Center at The Buckeye Institute and vice president of policy issued the following statement on the submission of the Medicaid work and community engagement waiver by the Ohio Department of Medicaid.

"Ohio's waiver request is an important step in reforming the state's health care system, and while we applaud this initial step, we are disappointed that the waiver is not part of a broader and bolder Medicaid reform package," said Rea S. Hederman Jr., executive director of the Economic Research Center at The Buckeye Institute and vice president of policy. "The good news is, if approved, this waiver will ensure that needy and vulnerable citizens will continue to benefit from Medicaid while encouraging healthy, able-bodied adults to gain new skills and employment, and obtain private insurance coverage that offers better health care coverage. This waiver is a good start, but Ohio should continue to reform and improve its Medicaid program to help lift people up and out of the program while protecting the traditional and vulnerable Medicaid population."

A nationally recognized expert in health care policy, Hederman submitted **public comments** on Ohio's two Medicaid waiver proposals -- the work and community engagement waiver and the state innovation or 1332 waiver. He was one of the first in the

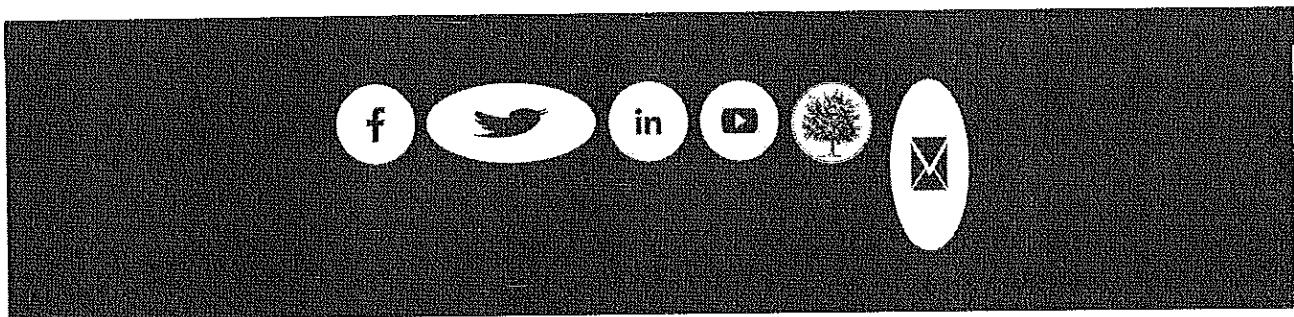
nation to propose using section 1332 waivers as a way to allow states to waive parts of the Affordable Care Act and take back the ability to regulate their insurance markets. Hederman and co-author Dennis G. Smith outlined this approach in their report *Returning Health Care Power to the States*.

In *Federal Efforts to Stabilize ACA Individual Markets through State Innovation*, Hederman and co-author Doug Badger argued that Congress and the federal government should empower states to devise new ways to make health insurance more affordable for more people.

#

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



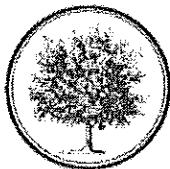
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, May 2, 2018 7:02 AM
To: Snider, Grace
Subject: New Buckeye Institute Research Finds Bail Reform Could Save Ohio Communities \$67 Million



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms
(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 2, 2018

New Buckeye Institute Research Finds Bail Reform Could Save Ohio Communities \$67 Million

Columbus, OH -- New research by **The Buckeye Institute** found that Ohio's proposed reforms to its broken cash bail system could save an estimated \$67 million in jail costs, while providing a fairer, more efficient way to keep Ohio's communities safe and secure.

"Ohio's cash bail system is broken and the reforms pending in the General Assembly could save hard-earned taxpayer dollars while keeping our communities safe," said Daniel J. Dew, a legal fellow with Buckeye's **Legal Center** and the author of "*Money Bail: Making Ohio a More Dangerous Place to Live*." "Even setting aside important issues of justice, fairness, and public safety that have all been compromised by the current money bail system, the needless amount of money spent jailing people accused of low-level crimes alone is enough to justify Ohio's proposed bail reform initiative."

In this new research, *The Ohio Model for Bail Reform: Retaining Local Flexibility and Saving Money*, Dew, and analysts with Buckeye's **Economic Research Center**, looked at Summit County, which uses a verified risk-assessment tool to inform pretrial detention decisions. They found that Ohio could see an annual cost savings of \$67,136,121 if it reforms its cash bail system and gives judges greater flexibility to use proven, evidence-based, risk-assessment tools to assess the risk an individual poses to the community rather than relying on cash bail.

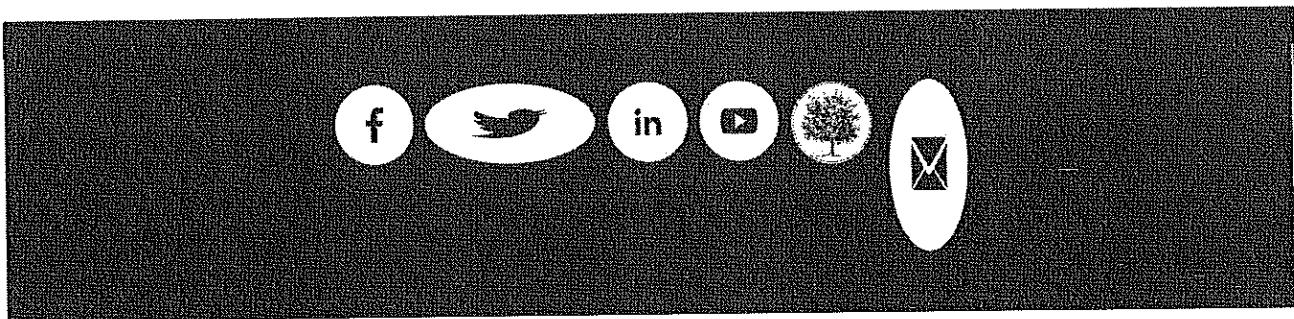
In Ohio, jail is far more expensive than supervised release, with the average jail bed costing almost \$65 per day, compared to \$5 per day for supervised release. Summit County, which has already implemented a verified risk-assessment tool, has estimated that it saved \$7.3 million in one year by adopting a pretrial risk-assessment tool and relying less on the money-bail system.

"Even accounting for its relatively large pretrial population and high daily-jail-bed cost, Summit County's early results suggest that pretrial reforms could provide substantial cost-savings across the rest of the state," Dew wrote in *The Ohio Model for Bail Reform*. "The proposed reforms give local jurisdictions more flexibility to implement changes and find cost savings than any other statewide bail reform initiative in the country."

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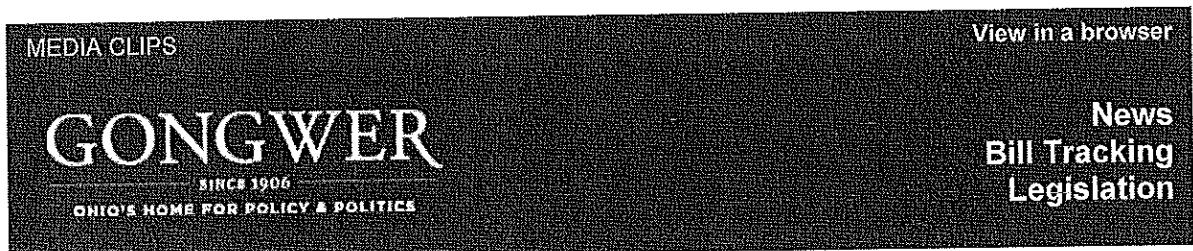
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Wednesday, May 2, 2018 8:28 AM
To: Snider, Grace
Subject: Ohio Media Clips, Wednesday, May 2



NEWS

Officials find flaw with medical marijuana grower scoring (Associated Press, 5/2/2018)

Ohio governor to announce chronic pain prescriber standards (Associated Press, 5/2/2018)

Ohio's top court to hear arguments on promotions tax dispute (Associated Press, 5/2/2018)

Here are all 403 personalized license plates Ohio rejected in the past year (Cincinnati Enquirer, 5/2/2018)

Who's who in the 'toss-up' race for Congress (Cincinnati Enquirer, 5/2/2018)

As Richard Cordray campaigns for Ohio governor, the federal agency he headed is in trial in Cleveland (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 5/2/2018)

Conservative Buckeye Institute says bail reform in Ohio would save money (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 5/2/2018)

Dennis Kucinich says the bulk of his consulting fees came from anti-G.M.O. group (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 5/2/2018)

Kane launches second ad of GOP primary for Tiberi's old seat (Columbus Dispatch, 5/2/2018)

Kucinich: I got \$122,000 as consultant for sustainable food group (Columbus Dispatch, 5/2/2018)

Mike DeWine stresses conservative credentials in new TV ad (Columbus Dispatch, 5/2/2018)

Ohio asks feds for OK to impose Medicaid work requirements (Columbus Dispatch, 5/2/2018)

Trump accuser getting donations from across US for Ohio race (Columbus Dispatch, 5/2/2018)

Trump accuser getting donations from across US for Ohio race (Columbus Dispatch, 5/2/2018)

Ohio may ban free international travel for lawmakers (Dayton Daily News, 5/2/2018)

Report: Bail reforms could save Ohio taxpayers \$67 million a year (Dayton Daily News, 5/2/2018)

Sexual assault legal loophole prevents victim military transfers, lawmaker says (Dayton Daily News, 5/2/2018)

Algal blooms harder to control because of climate change, other factors, data shows (Toledo Blade, 5/2/2018)

Commissioners, state representative advocate for regulation of payday loans (Toledo Blade, 5/2/2018)

Groups explore extent of ECOT 'hush money' (Toledo Blade, 5/2/2018)

EDITORIALS

Beacon Journal/Ohio.com editorial board: Being mean to the poor in public housing (Akron Beacon Journal, 5/2/2018)

Dimitri McDaniel in the Democratic primary for Ohio House 12: endorsement editorial (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 5/2/2018)

Rick Raley in the Democratic primary for Ohio House 14: endorsement editorial (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 5/2/2018)

Editorial: Clarify regulations to finally banish ECOT demons (Columbus Dispatch, 5/2/2018)

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From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Wednesday, May 2, 2018 8:54 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 5/2/2018

HOUSE E-CLIPS

5/2/2018



OHIO'S TOP COURT TO HEAR ARGUMENTS ON PROMOTIONS TAX DISPUTE

The Ohio Supreme Court has set a date for arguments in a dispute over promotions offered by the Cincinnati Reds to ticket buyers including bobbleheads and other items.

OHIO GOVERNOR TO ANNOUNCE CHRONIC PAIN PRESCRIBER STANDARDS

Ohio Gov. John Kasich is preparing to announce new standards to help people suffering from chronic pain get proper treatment from prescribers to avoid addiction.

The Columbus Dispatch

Ohio's Greatest Online Newspaper

KUCINICH SAYS HE GOT \$120K AS CONSULTANT FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD GROUP

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Dennis Kucinich received \$122,000 in consulting fees in 2016 from a group that works for food sustainability and safety, his campaign said Tuesday.

TRUMP ACCUSER GETTING DONATIONS FROM ACROSS US FOR OHIO RACE

The national exposure that has come with her accusations of sexual harassment against President Donald Trump has translated into an unprecedented number of individual campaign contributors for Rachel Crooks' Ohio House campaign.

MIKE DEWINE STRESSES CONSERVATIVE CREDENTIALS IN NEW TV AD

With a week until Election Day, the Republican gubernatorial campaign of Mike DeWine is airing a new TV commercial that it hopes underlines his conservative credentials — and support of President Donald Trump.

SPENDING FOR TV ADS COULD BE TROUBLE FOR ECOT IN UPCOMING AUDIT

The first report regarding ECOT's operations following allegations from an insider that the school used new tracking software to manipulate attendance data will come from the state auditor.

Dayton Daily News

www.daytondailynews.com

REPORT: BAIL REFORMS COULD SAVE OHIO TAXPAYERS \$67 MILLION A YEAR

A new report from the Buckeye Institute says Ohio could save \$67 million a year in jail costs by changing the bail system used by courts.

OHIO MAY BAN FREE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL FOR LAWMAKERS

In the wake of Republican Cliff Rosenberger's abrupt resignation as Ohio House speaker, state Rep. Niraj Antani is proposing reforms to state ethics laws when it comes to gifts, meals and travel for legislators.

MAY ELECTION: BIG MONEY SPENT IN MIAMI/DARKE COUNTY STATE HOUSE

RACE

Nearly a quarter of a million dollars has been spent on the Republican primary in Ohio's 80th state House district making it one of the most expensive statehouse primary in the region.

THE PLAIN DEALER

AS RICHARD CORDRAY CAMPAIGNS FOR OHIO GOVERNOR, THE FEDERAL AGENCY HE HEADED IS IN TRIAL IN CLEVELAND

A trial that began in U.S. District Court in Cleveland on Tuesday pits the federal agency Ohio Democratic gubernatorial candidate Richard Cordray once led against a law firm the agency accuses of conducting deceptive debt collection practices.

DENNIS KUCINICH SAYS THE BULK OF HIS CONSULTING FEES CAME FROM ANTI-G.M.O. GROUP

Former U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich's gubernatorial campaign released more details Tuesday about the roughly \$120,000 he received from consulting.

RICK RALEY IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY FOR OHIO HOUSE 14:

ENDORSEMENT EDITORIAL

State Rep. Martin J. Sweeney is moving on from his 14th Ohio House District to run for the Ohio Senate, leaving the House seat wide open for four Democrats eager to succeed him -- including his 25-year-old daughter, Bride Rose Sweeney.

DIMITRI McDANIEL IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY FOR OHIO HOUSE 12:

ENDORSEMENT EDITORIAL

Several strong Democratic primary candidates are seeking to replace term-limited state Rep. John Barnes Jr. in the 12th Ohio House District, which reaches from a slice of southeast Cleveland to Bedford, Bedford Heights, Highland Hills, Maple Heights, Mayfield Heights, North Randall, Orange, Pepper Pike and Warrensville Heights.

THE BLADE

One of America's Great Newspapers

ASHFORD, FEDOR SQUARE OFF IN PRIMARY FOR OHIO SENATE SEAT

Imagine that: A hotly contested race without mudslinging.

From: Ethan Karp
Sent: Thursday, May 3, 2018 11:35 AM
To: Snider, Grace
Subject: News for Manufacturers in Northeast Ohio: MAGNET newsletter



MAGNET

Ohio

Manufacturing
Extension Partnership

MAGNET's May Newsletter for Manufacturers

Join us for a manufacturers-only event covering trends in operations and emerging technologies

June 28 | Alloy Bellows | Cleveland, Ohio

The Internet of Things. Digital manufacturing. Are you fully prepared? If not, spend a morning gaining insight into how these trends can lead to business growth, and get an exclusive tour of Alloy Bellows.

Join us Thursday, June 28 from 7:30-9:30am for "Emerging Trends in Operations Improvement: Digital Manufacturing, Internet of Things and More!"

Hear from manufacturing executives how they've reduced expenses, implemented new technologies, and increased profitability through operations improvement.

[Save your seat →](#)

Seats are limited, so register today.

THOUGHTS FOR MANUFACTURERS

Boosting business through responsible growth

For mid-market companies, business success and responsible growth aren't mutually exclusive. In fact, prioritizing responsible growth is becoming increasingly important, and successful companies are making sustainability central to their growth strategies.

Leading your growth with those goals in mind builds resilience and better solutions for the future. [\[Read on...\]](#)

MORE NORTHEAST OHIO MANUFACTURING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE for the 7th Annual Northeast Ohio Manufacturing Symposium!

September 28, Elyria

Join MAGNET and the Cleveland Engineering Society for a day on-emerging technologies. Workshops will include: cybersecurity/IoT, manufacturing technology/new-product innovation, process innovation and 3D printing.

In-Demand Jobs Week

May 7-11, Cleveland

Participate in In-Demand Jobs Week by attending two workforce seminars. Social Policy Research Associates will talk about two timely topics at no charge thanks to sponsors.

- The Future of Work: Tools for Change

May 7, Warrensville Heights

How can workforce leaders advance new strategies for navigating an ever-changing terrain? Add a few practices to your Future of Work toolkit. Attend live

or via webinar.

- Apprenticeship 2.0: Finding the Sweet Spot for Employers and Apprentices

May 8, Warrensville Heights

In this workshop, participants will learn about design elements and best practices in apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship. Can't be there in person? Attend via webinar.

NEO Rising: Celebrating Today. Building Tomorrow.

May 10, Independence

Team NEO invites you to celebrate the regional economic development successes of 2017. Hear keynote Tim Timken of TimkenSteel and find out who wins the Team NEO Regional Economic Development Champion Award.

One Ohio Series: Defense Summit

May 30-31, Huron

The Ohio Defense Summit for Business focuses on increasing Ohio jobs by growing the share of goods and services we provide to the Department of Defense. Hear from Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, and help cultivate opportunities for both national security and job security of Ohioans.

Design for Advanced Manufacturing/Lightweighting Certificate

June 11-13, Youngstown

CWRU offers stand-alone and multi-course integrated certificates focused on design, problem-solving and skill-building for engineers, product developers and STEM professionals. Learn more about CWRU's Advanced Lightweighting Certification and find out why lightweighting matters. Email Monica Dumitriu to for more information.

SURVEYS

Do you use rail to transport your products? Do your competitors?

The Ohio Rail Development Commission is asking for your input to prepare the State of Ohio Rail Plan. The Rail Plan is intended to fulfill a federal requirement, help position the state for future federal rail infrastructure grant opportunities, and guide the Ohio's decision-making on rail investments in the future.

We encourage you to take the Rail Plan survey.

Are you part of the supply chain for new cars or light trucks? Do you make auto materials, tooling, or parts?

The Center for Automotive Research is conducting a survey to identify how automation is affecting the auto industry supply chain and its workforce. All participants will receive a free, personalized benchmarking report, including data from peer firms on wages, automation levels, and customer practices.

Invest 5-10 minutes to take the survey, and encourage colleagues to do the same.

What do you think about the MAGNET monthly newsletter?

We provide this newsletter to you as a way to serve manufacturers in Northeast Ohio. Are we reaching our goal? Is the list of events helpful? Do you enjoy the videos? What addition would make it more useful to you?

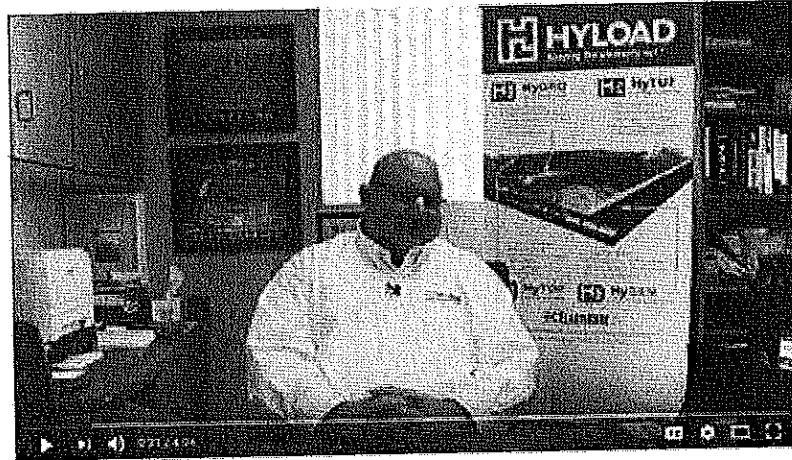
Would you take a minute of your time to let us know your thoughts on our newsletter?

Provide your feedback

MANUFACTURING SUCCESS STORY

Sales and Marketing

Hyload achieved double-digit growth in less than two years by engaging in a sales and marketing project with MAGNET. Watch their success story.



Sound like something you'd like to achieve? [Let us know](#) how we can help.

[Contact MAGNET for a Free Consultation](#)

Or call Linda Barita, Director of Strategic Alliances, at 216-391-7766



MAGNET 1768 E.25th Street Cleveland OHIO 44114 United States

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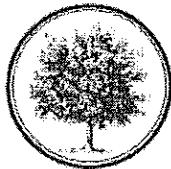
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From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 7:05 AM
To: Snider, Grace
Subject: New Buckeye Institute Policy Brief Highlights the Problems with Government-Owned Broadband Networks

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

= A

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms
(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 14, 2018

= A

New Buckeye Institute Policy Brief Highlights the Problems with Government-Owned Broadband Networks

Columbus, OH -- In The Buckeye Institute's most recent policy brief, *Broadband "GON" Wrong: Remembering Why Government-Owned Broadband Networks Are Bad for Taxpayers*, Greg R. Lawson looks at the problems with government-owned and run networks and their high cost to taxpayers.

"Government-owned networks have been springing up across the nation for years and Ohio is no stranger to these government-owned and controlled projects that unfairly compete with the private sector," said **Greg R. Lawson**, research fellow at The Buckeye Institute. "While these GONs might seem alluring, they frequently fail to live up to the promises

made by government officials, and have often led to taxpayer subsidization to maintain operations."

In the paper, Lawson looks at two Ohio case studies, the City of Lebanon and Medina County. The network in Lebanon was plagued with problems almost from the start, as was outlined in a **Buckeye report** in 2006, and was eventually **sold to Cincinnati Bell at a loss**. Unfortunately, Medina County did not heed the warning signs that Lebanon's experience offered, and according to the Medina County Port Authority's chief operating officer, a mere 140 customers are connected to the network and the county commissioners have already had to subsidize the network twice to the tune of \$1.6 million.

Lawson also outlines a number of problems with government-owned networks, most notably the high cost to taxpayers and the poor service provided, which were highlighted in a **University of Pennsylvania Law School report**. The study found that in the 20 GONs it reviewed, 11 generated a negative cash flow, and of the nine cash-flow positive projects, five of them would take more than 100 years to recover their costs while two would take more than 60 years.

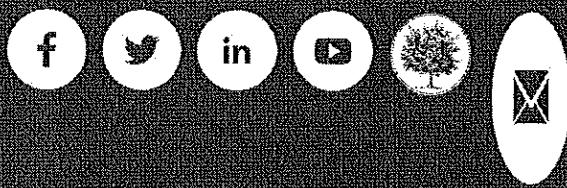
"Ohio's state and local policymakers should take a long hard look at broadband "GON" wrong in the City of Lebanon and Medina County before venturing into new government-owned networks," Lawson stated in the paper. "Local governments should focus their money and attention on providing their citizens with safe roads and drinking water, and let the private sector worry about adding new internet users."

Broadband "GON" Wrong: Remembering Why Government-Owned Broadband Networks Are Bad for Taxpayers was authored by Greg R. Lawson, research fellow at The Buckeye Institute.

#

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

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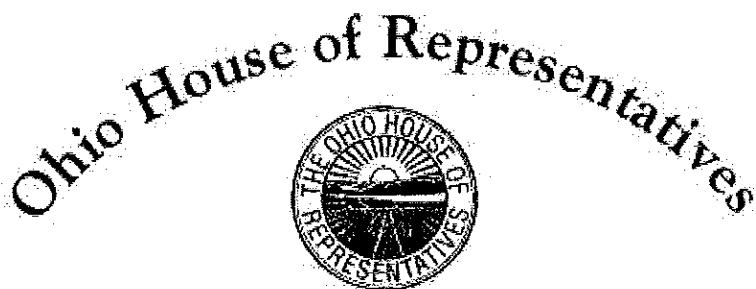
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Springhetti, Blake
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2017 11:13 AM
To: Baker, Dan; Snider, Grace
CC: Merrin, Derek
Subject: Amendment No. 1330 - Dental, Vision, Life Insurance for Exempt State Employees
Attachments: Amendment No. 1330 - Cover Letter.pdf; Amendment No. 1330 - 15% Premium for Dental, Vision, Life Insurance.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Blue Category



**Representative Derek Merrin
47th District**

MEMORANDUM

TO:Chairman Ryan Smith

FROM:Representative Derek Merrin

DATE:April 3, 2017

RE:Amendment No. 1330–Dental, Vision, Life Insurance for Exempt State Employees

I request this amendment be included in House Bill 49. Exempt state employees currently pay 15% of their premium for medical insurance, while paying 0% of the premium for dental, vision, and basic life insurance coverage. This amendment (HB 169) requires exempt state employees pay the same percentage for dental, vision, and basic life insurance premiums as they pay for their medical insurance premium.

Key Facts:

- By having exempt state employees pay 15% of their dental, vision, and life premiums, taxpayers would save at least \$2.6 million annually.
- Amendment would impact about 13,000 exempt state employees receiving insurance coverage.
- Amendment directs the state to seek the same provision when negotiating collective bargaining agreements that cover about 35,900 unionized state employees, which would save taxpayers an additional \$4.7 million annually.
- House Bill 169 has received 15 co-sponsors.

Sincerely,
Derek Merrin

Ohio House of Representatives



Representative Derek Merrin
47th District

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman Ryan Smith
FROM: Representative Derek Merrin
DATE: April 3, 2017
RE: Amendment No. 1330 – Dental, Vision, Life Insurance for Exempt State Employees

I request this amendment be included in House Bill 49. Exempt state employees currently pay 15% of their premium for medical insurance, while paying 0% of the premium for dental, vision, and basic life insurance coverage. This amendment (HB 169) requires exempt state employees pay the same percentage for dental, vision, and basic life insurance premiums as they pay for their medical insurance premium.

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- Amendment directs the state to seek the same provision when negotiating collective bargaining agreements that cover about 35,900 unionized state employees, which would save taxpayers an additional \$4.7 million annually.
- House Bill 169 has received 15 co-sponsors.

Sincerely,
Derek Merrin

H.B. 49
As Introduced

_____ moved to amend as follows:

In line 6 of the title, after "124.384," insert "124.81,"	1
In line 237 of the title, after "109.112," insert "124.824,"	2
In line 334, after "124.384," insert "124.81,"	3
In line 502, after "109.112," insert "124.824,"	4
Between lines 5271 and 5272, insert:	5
"Sec. 124.81. (A) Except as provided in division (F) of this	6
section, the department of administrative services in consultation	7
with the superintendent of insurance shall negotiate with and, in	8
accordance with the competitive selection procedures of Chapter	9
125. of the Revised Code, contract with one or more insurance	10
companies authorized to do business in this state, for the	11
issuance of one of the following:	12
(1) A policy of group life insurance covering all state	13
employees who are paid directly by warrant of the state auditor,	14
including elected state officials;	15
(2) A combined policy, or coordinated policies of one or more	16
insurance companies or health insuring corporations in combination	17
with one or more insurance companies providing group life and	18
health, medical, hospital, dental, or surgical insurance, or any	19
combination thereof, covering all such employees;	20

(3) A policy that may include, but is not limited to, hospitalization, surgical, major medical, dental, vision, and medical care, disability, hearing aids, prescription drugs, group life, life, sickness, and accident insurance, group legal services, or a combination of the above benefits for some or all of the employees paid in accordance with section 124.152 of the Revised Code and for some or all of the employees listed in divisions (B)(2) and (4) of section 124.14 of the Revised Code, and their immediate dependents.	21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29
(B) The department of administrative services in consultation with the superintendent of insurance shall negotiate with and, in accordance with the competitive selection procedures of Chapter 125. of the Revised Code, contract with one or more insurance companies authorized to do business in this state, for the issuance of a policy of group life insurance covering all municipal and county court judges. The amount of such coverage shall be an amount equal to the aggregate salary set forth for each municipal court judge in sections 141.04 and 1901.11 of the Revised Code, and set forth for each county court judge in sections 141.04 and 1907.16 of the Revised Code.	30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40
(C) <u>If Notwithstanding section 124.824 of the Revised Code,</u> if a state employee uses all accumulated sick leave and then goes on an extended medical disability, the policyholder shall continue at no cost to the employee the coverage of the group life insurance for such employee for the period of such extended leave, but not beyond three years.	41 42 43 44 45 46
(D) If a state employee insured under a group life insurance policy as provided in division (A) of this section is laid off pursuant to section 124.32 of the Revised Code, such employee by request to the policyholder, made no later than the effective date	47 48 49 50

of the layoff, may elect to continue the employee's group life	51
insurance for the one-year period through which the employee may	52
be considered to be on laid-off status by paying the policyholder	53
through payroll deduction or otherwise twelve times the monthly	54
premium computed at the existing average rate for the group life	55
case for the amount of the employee's insurance thereunder at the	56
time of the employee's layoff. The policyholder shall pay the	57
premiums to the insurance company at the time of the next regular	58
monthly premium payment for the actively insured employees and	59
furnish the company appropriate data as to such laid-off	60
employees. At the time an employee receives written notice of a	61
layoff, the policyholder shall also give such employee written	62
notice of the opportunity to continue group life insurance in	63
accordance with this division. When such laid-off employee is	64
reinstated for active work before the end of the one-year period,	65
the employee shall be reclassified as insured again as an active	66
employee under the group and appropriate refunds for the number of	67
full months of unearned premium payment shall be made by the	68
policyholder.	69
(E) This section does not affect the conversion rights of an	70
insured employee when the employee's group insurance terminates	71
under the policy.	72
(F) Notwithstanding division (A) of this section, the	73
department may provide benefits equivalent to those that may be	74
paid under a policy issued by an insurance company, or the	75
department may, to comply with a collectively bargained contract,	76
enter into an agreement with a jointly administered trust fund	77
which receives contributions pursuant to a collective bargaining	78
agreement entered into between this state, or any of its political	79
subdivisions, and any collective bargaining representative of the	80
employees of this state or any political subdivision for the	81

purpose of providing for self-insurance of all risk in the provision of fringe benefits similar to those that may be paid pursuant to division (A) of this section, and the jointly administered trust fund may provide through the self-insurance method specific fringe benefits as authorized by the rules of the board of trustees of the jointly administered trust fund. Amounts from the fund may be used to pay direct and indirect costs that are attributable to consultants or a third-party administrator and that are necessary to administer this section. Benefits provided under this section include, but are not limited to, hospitalization, surgical care, major medical care, disability, dental care, vision care, medical care, hearing aids, prescription drugs, group life insurance, sickness and accident insurance, group legal services, or a combination of the above benefits, for the employees and their immediate dependents.	82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96
(G) Notwithstanding any other provision of the Revised Code, any public employer, including the state, and any of its political subdivisions, including, but not limited to, any county, county hospital, municipal corporation, township, park district, school district, state institution of higher education, public or special district, state agency, authority, commission, or board, or any other branch of public employment, and any collective bargaining representative of employees of the state or any political subdivision may agree in a collective bargaining agreement that any mutually agreed fringe benefit including, but not limited to, hospitalization, surgical care, major medical care, disability, dental care, vision care, medical care, hearing aids, prescription drugs, group life insurance, sickness and accident insurance, group legal services, or a combination thereof, for employees and their dependents be provided through a mutually agreed upon contribution to a jointly administered trust fund. Amounts from	97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112

the fund may be used to pay direct and indirect costs that are attributable to consultants or a third-party administrator and that are necessary to administer this section. The amount, type, and structure of fringe benefits provided under this division is subject to the determination of the board of trustees of the jointly administered trust fund. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Revised Code, competitive bidding does not apply to the purchase of fringe benefits for employees under this division through a jointly administered trust fund.	113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121
<u>Sec. 124.824. (A) An individual who is not covered by a collective bargaining agreement and who receives vision, dental, or life insurance contracted for or provided by the department of administrative services shall pay a percentage of the premium or percentage of the cost of coverage for any of those types of insurance that is equal to the percentage of the premium or percentage of the cost of coverage that the individual is required to pay for health insurance contracted for or provided by the department.</u>	122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130
<u>(B) Pursuant to Section 20 of Article II, Ohio Constitution, if a change in the percentage of the premium or percentage of the cost of coverage for vision, dental, or life insurance under division (A) of this section occurs during an individual's term of office, that change does not apply to the individual until the individual's next term of office that begins after the date the change occurs.</u>	131 132 133 134 135 136 137
<u>(C) In negotiating a collective bargaining agreement under Chapter 4117. of the Revised Code, the entity or individual who negotiates on behalf of a state agency, department, board, or commission shall seek to obtain a provision in the agreement that requires an individual to pay a percentage of the premium or</u>	138 139 140 141 142

<u>percentage of the cost of coverage for vision, dental, or life insurance that is equal to the percentage of the premium or percentage of the cost of coverage that the individual is required to pay for health insurance contracted for or provided by the department."</u>	143
In line 92428, after "124.384," insert "124.81,"	144
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The motion was _____ agreed to.

SYNOPSIS

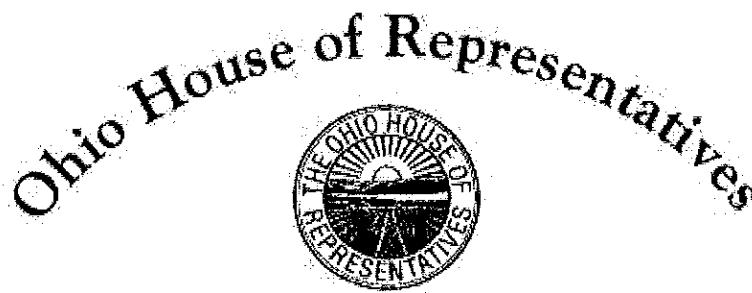
Exempt employee insurance benefits	149
R.C. 124.81 and 124.824	150
Requires, with respect to insurance contracted for or provided by the Department of Administrative Services, an individual who is not covered by a collective bargaining agreement to pay the same percentage of the premium or cost for vision, dental, or life insurance as the individual pays for health insurance.	151
Specifies that any change in the percentage of premium or cost for vision, dental, or life insurance during an individual's term of office does not apply until the individual's next term of office in accordance with Section 20, Article II of the Ohio Constitution.	152
Requires, in negotiating a collective bargaining agreement under Ohio's Public Employee Collective Bargaining Law, an entity or individual who negotiates on behalf of a state agency, department, board, or commission to seek to obtain a provision in the agreement that requires an individual to pay the same	153
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percentage of the premium or cost for vision, dental, or life insurance as the individual pays for health insurance. 167
168

From: Springhetti, Blake
Sent: Wednesday, April 5, 2017 5:11 PM
To: Baker, Dan
CC: Snider, Grace
Subject: Amendment No. 04444X1 – Paycheck Protection Act
Attachments: Amendment No. 04444X1 - Paycheck Protection- Cover Letter.pdf; Amendment No. 04444X1- Paycheck Protection Act.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Categories: Blue Category



**Representative Derek Merrin
47th District**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman Ryan Smith

FROM: Representative Derek Merrin

DATE: April 5, 2017

RE: Amendment No. 04444X1 – Paycheck Protection Act

I request this amendment be included in House Bill 49. This amendment prohibits dues and other fees related to collective bargaining agreements from being deducted from public employees' payroll checks and instead requires the public employees to directly pay the dues and other fees to their exclusive representative (union).

Ohio taxpayers through their local governments should not be subsidizing union activity by government staff processing union due payments. There should be a firewall between official government functions and union political activity. This amendment will help to establish that firewall.

Sincerely,

Derek Merrin

Ohio House of Representatives



The seal of the Ohio House of Representatives, featuring a circular design with the words "THE OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES" around the perimeter and a central emblem.

**Representative Derek Merrin
47th District**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman Ryan Smith
FROM: Representative Derek Merrin
DATE: April 5, 2017
RE: Amendment No. 04444X1 – Paycheck Protection Act

I request this amendment be included in House Bill 49. This amendment prohibits dues and other fees related to collective bargaining agreements from being deducted from public employees' payroll checks and instead requires the public employees to directly pay the dues and other fees to their exclusive representative (union).

Ohio taxpayers through their local governments should not be subsidizing union activity by government staff processing union due payments. There should be a firewall between official government functions and union political activity. This amendment will help to establish that firewall.

Sincerely,

Derek Merrin

HC0444X1

H.B. 49

As introduced

_____ moved to amend as follows:

In line 1 of the title, after "sections" insert "9.81,"	1
In line 86 of the title, after "4109.06," insert "4117.09,"	2
In line 330, after "sections" insert "9.81,"	3
In line 393, after "4109.06," insert "4117.09,"	4
Between lines 525 and 526, insert:	5
"Sec. 9.81. After an authorization adopted under section 9.80	6
of the Revised Code, any public officer or employee of any	7
department or division of the state, any political subdivision or	8
school district thereof, or of any institution supported in whole	9
or in part by the state, a county, or municipal corporation, who	10
wishes to make a contribution by the payroll deduction plan to	11
one or more of the specified charitable agencies which are	12
corporations not for profit, community chests, united funds, or	13
other similar united community fund organizations, may be	14
permitted to have such contribution payments deducted from the	15
salary or wages due such public officer or employee by filing a	16
written request and authorization signed by such public officer or	17
employee and specifying the amount of the deduction in each	18
payroll period with the fiscal officer of the state, political	19
subdivision, or school district, or institution by which such	20

public officer or employee is employed. Such authorization may be withdrawn in writing by such public officer or employee at any time. No funds may be withheld from the salary or wages of any such public officer or employee for the purposes permitted by sections 9.80 and 9.81 of the Revised Code unless the withholding is specifically, freely, and voluntarily authorized by that public officer or employee in writing.	21 22 23 24 25 26 27
Upon receipt of evidence of such request by the appropriate fiscal officer, or upon receipt of a written deduction authorization under division (B) (2) or (C) of section 4117.09 of the Revised Code, such fiscal officer shall make such deduction and shall, at periodic intervals to the extent of the amount collected, pay the designated charitable agencies which are corporations not for profit, community chests, united funds, or other similar united community fund organizations, or the exclusive representative designated under section 4117.05 of the Revised Code."	28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37
Between lines 46029 and 46030, insert:	38
" Sec. 4117.09. (A) The parties to any collective bargaining agreement shall reduce the agreement to writing and both execute it.	39 40 41
(B) The agreement shall contain a provision that+	42
(1) Provides provides for a grievance procedure which may culminate with final and binding arbitration of unresolved grievances, and disputed interpretations of agreements, and which is valid and enforceable under its terms when entered into in accordance with this chapter. No publication thereof is required to make it effective. A party to the agreement may bring suits for violation of agreements or the enforcement of an award by an	43 44 45 46 47 48 49

arbitrator in the court of common pleas of any county wherein a party resides or transacts business.	50 51
(2) Authorizes the public employer to deduct the periodic dues, initiation fees, and assessments of members of the exclusive representative upon presentation of a written deduction authorization by the employee.	52 53 54 55
(C) The agreement may contain a provision that requires as a condition of employment, on or after a mutually agreed upon probationary period or sixty days following the beginning of employment, whichever is less, or the effective date of a collective bargaining agreement, whichever is later, that the employees in the unit who are not members of the employee organization pay to the employee organization a fair share fee. The arrangement does not require any employee to become a member of the employee organization, nor shall fair share fees exceed dues paid by members of the employee organization who are in the same bargaining unit. Any public employee organization representing public employees pursuant to this chapter shall prescribe an internal procedure to determine a rebate, if any, for nonmembers which conforms to federal law, provided a nonmember makes a timely demand on the employee organization. Absent arbitrary and capricious action, such determination is conclusive on the parties except that a challenge to the determination may be filed with the state employment relations board within thirty days of the determination date specifying the arbitrary or capricious nature of the determination and the board shall review the rebate determination and decide whether it was arbitrary or capricious. The deduction of a fair share fee by the public employer from the payroll check of the employee and its payment to the employee organization is automatic and does not require the written authorization of the employee.	56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80

The internal rebate procedure shall provide for a rebate of expenditures in support of partisan politics or ideological causes not <u>germane</u> to the work of employee organizations in the realm of collective bargaining.	81 82 83 84
Any public employee who is a member of and adheres to established and traditional tenets or teachings of a bona fide religion or religious body which has historically held conscientious objections to joining or financially supporting an employee organization and which is exempt from taxation under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code shall not be required to join or financially support any employee organization as a condition of employment. Upon submission of proper proof of religious conviction to the board, the board shall declare the employee exempt from becoming a member of or financially supporting an employee organization. The employee shall be required, in lieu of the fair share fee, to pay an amount of money equal to the fair share fee to a nonreligious charitable fund exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code mutually agreed upon by the employee and the representative of the employee organization to which the employee would otherwise be required to pay the fair share fee. The employee shall furnish to the employee organization written receipts evidencing such payment, and failure to make the payment or furnish the receipts shall subject the employee to the same sanctions as would nonpayment of dues under the applicable collective bargaining agreement.	85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106
No public employer shall agree to a provision requiring that a public employee become a member of an employee organization as a condition for securing or retaining employment.	107 108 109
(D) As used in this division, "teacher" means any employee of	110

a school district certified to teach in the public schools of this state.	111 112
The agreement may contain a provision that provides for a peer review plan under which teachers in a bargaining unit or representatives of an employee organization representing teachers may, for other teachers of the same bargaining unit or teachers whom the employee organization represents, participate in assisting, instructing, reviewing, evaluating, or appraising and make recommendations or participate in decisions with respect to the retention, discharge, renewal, or nonrenewal of, the teachers covered by a peer review plan.	113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121
The participation of teachers or their employee organization representative in a peer review plan permitted under this division shall not be construed as an unfair labor practice under this chapter or as a violation of any other provision of law or rule adopted pursuant thereto.	122 123 124 125 126
(E) No agreement shall contain an expiration date that is later than three years from the date of execution. The parties may extend any agreement, but the extensions do not affect the expiration date of the original agreement.	127 128 129 130
<u>(F) Dues, initiation fees, and assessments of members of an exclusive representative and fair share fees shall not be automatically deducted from the payroll check of a public employee. The public employee shall directly pay these amounts to the exclusive representative."</u>	131 132 133 134 135
In line 92424, after "sections" insert "9.81,"	136
In line 92487, after "4109.06," insert "4117.09,"	137
Between lines 106687 and 106688, insert: <u>"Section 803._____</u> . Sections 9.81 and 4117.09 of the Revised	138 139

Code, as amended by this act, apply to any collective bargaining	140
agreement entered into under Chapter 4117. of the Revised Code on	141
or after the effective date of this section."	142

The motion was _____ agreed to.

SYNOPSIS

Deduction of fees related to collective bargaining	143
R.C. 9.81 and 4117.09; Section 803._____	144
Prohibits dues and other fees related to collective	145
bargaining from being automatically deducted from a public	146
employee's payroll check and instead requires the public employee	147
to directly pay the dues and other fees to their exclusive	148
representative (union).	149

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Event Planner

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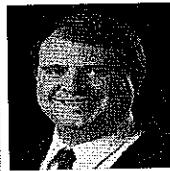
Volume #86, Report #160 – Friday, August 18, 2017

Reducing Regulations Among Legislative Priorities For Fall

With the biennial budget, veto overrides notwithstanding, in the rearview mirror, Senate President Larry Obhof hopes his chamber will work on legislation designed to make life easier for businesses.

One way the Medina Republican plans to do that is not by adding new laws, but by removing or simplifying old ones.

"We'll focus on getting government red tape and regulation out of the way and hopefully continue to build our economy and build off the improvements we've made the last few years," Sen. Obhof said this week.



Sen. Obhof

One of the priorities for the Senate Republicans leader includes finding bits of regulation that are burdensome for business and aren't working the way they're supposed to. He said he wanted each member of his caucus to find examples of failing regulation and work to fix them, whether by eliminating language or streamlining it.

"We talk a lot on the campaign trail, both parties do, about getting red tape and regulations out of the way," he said. "When you get to work, people start to pass new laws and regulations."

"We ought to all go out and find one example of something that's not working right and get rid of it," he continued. "They don't have to be big things, necessarily, but the more things like that that we do, you're slowly but surely making it easier for some small business owners."

Even if the change doesn't affect every Ohioan, he said, it could be significant for the few it does affect.

"I think we're going to be pretty serious this fall about trying to get rid of parts of the Ohio Revised Code, scale them back, make them easier to understand, easier to read, removing some of the hurdles government has put in the way of our job creators," he said.

Other priorities for the fall include economic development, the opioid crisis and workforce development, he said.

The Senate will be in session Tuesday, with the agenda expected to focus heavily on budget veto overrides. More override votes are possible in September, Sen. Obhof said.

The chamber will also see some committee action Tuesday, including the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee, which will hear a bill (SB 164) to ban abortions based on a Down syndrome diagnosis.

On the House side, the post-budget plan is still in the works, said Brad Miller, a spokesman for Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville).

"Legislative priorities for the fall are still under consideration and will be the product of conversations and input between the Speaker and members of the caucus," Mr. Miller said in an email.

Some of the House's work could stem from the speaker's task forces, some of which have begun their work, including one on education and poverty (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 17, 2017) and another on Alzheimer's and dementia (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 8, 2017).

High Court Sets Oral Arguments In Abortion Cases

The state's highest court will hear two high-profile abortion cases in September, including one that has triggered calls for a justice's recusal.

Both cases stem from abortion-related provisions in the 2014-15 state budget (HB59 130th General Assembly).

The first case, set to be heard on Sept. 12, was brought to the high court by the Department of Health, which has defended the constitutionality of restrictions imposed on a Toledo abortion clinic. (Docket)

The case is the result of a 2014 department decision to shutter the city's last abortion clinic, Capital Care Network of Toledo, after it determined a patient transfer agreement it had inked with an Ann Arbor hospital ran afoul of state law because the facility was not "local."

However, both the Lucas County Common Pleas Court and the Sixth District Court of Appeals sided with the clinic, which has remained open.

ODH argues that the decision to shutter the clinic was lawful, the one-subject rule was not violated by placing the requirement in the budget, the clinic did not raise an "undue burden" challenge and the ambulatory requirement is constitutional.

The "undue burden" standard, which was used by the lower courts to strike down the requirement, was created by the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*.

However, ODH argues that the high court should not view the case through that lens because the clinic did not raise the issue.

"The court should vacate the undue burden holding and set the issue aside, as the clinic never raised such a challenge. And as part of not raising it as a legal issue, the clinic also never presented any factual evidence to meet its burden to overcome the law," ODH wrote in a court filing.

"Vacating the holding still allows this clinic or any other abortion clinic to raise an undue burden challenge in a separate case, and indeed, at least two clinics are doing so in a federal case."

Among the clinic's arguments are that the 2013 budget violated the single-subject rule, that the provision amounts to an undue burden and that it is unconstitutional.

"The three transfer agreement provisions were introduced late in the legislative process as riders to the budget bill with little or no opportunity for public debate. At the end of the state budget process Ohio legislators buried controversial anti-abortion provisions in the several thousand pages of a budget bill that was sure to pass," the brief reads.

"The written transfer agreement provisions, which are inherently controversial and of significant constitutional import, were not debated and approved during a fair and open legislative process. HB59 frustrates the single-subject rule's purpose of preventing logrolling and ensuring 'a more orderly and fair legislative process.'"

The case already stirred controversy after Justice Sharon Kennedy spoke at a Greater Toledo Right to Life event in March. That led NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio to unsuccessfully call on her to recuse herself in the case.

This week, Capital Care attorney Jennifer Branch made an official request for Justice Kennedy's recusal in a filing with the court.

"Since this court accepted jurisdiction in this case, Justice Kennedy's impartiality in deciding this case involving an abortion provider has been reasonably questioned by various Ohioans due to her connections to anti-abortion and pro-life organizations," the attorney wrote.

ProgressOhio also filed an ethics complaint against Justice Kennedy that was recently dismissed.

The second case, slated for oral arguments on Sept. 26, was also brought forward by the state after two lower courts found a Cleveland-based clinic had standing to sue over several abortion-related provisions in the budget bill. (Docket)

Along with the transfer agreement provision, Preterm-Cleveland has also taken issue with a ban on public hospitals from entering into those agreements and a requirement that doctors inform pregnant women about a detectable heartbeat.

"Preterm's change of conduct to avoid running afoul of these new requirements constitutes injury-in-fact for standing purposes, traceable to the enactment of HB59," its brief reads. "Its requested relief - an order declaring that HB59 violates the one-subject rule and severing and enjoining the provisions it has shown create disunity - will redress Preterm's injury and cure the identified constitutional defect."

The state, however, argues that the abortion clinic does not have standing to sue because it has not been able to demonstrate that it has been injured by the budget provisions.

"Ohio's Constitution allows courts to hear only justiciable controversies involving parties with standing, so relaxing the rules is unconstitutional. Applying the rules here is straightforward: Preterm must show standing as to each provision it challenges, and it fails on all counts," the state's brief reads.

Few Districts Meet Recommendation To Delay Start Of School Day

Most students heading back to school over the next few weeks won't be reporting to first period any later than in past years, despite district attempts to accommodate research that shows later start times can be beneficial to student health.

Various districts throughout the state report studying later start times in the last few years, but a recent accounting of states where schools have made changes doesn't include Ohio.

Schools in at least 19 states delayed starting bell times for the new academic year, according to a Start School Later report. They include a handful of schools in the surrounding states of Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Indiana.

"Every year we see more and more schools delaying bell times to improve student sleep, health, and learning," Start School Later Executive Director Terra Ziporyn Snider said. "Not all of them will be starting middle and high schools at 8:30 or later, as health professionals recommend, but they are moving to schedules that are healthier and safer for many more students."

The American Academy of Pediatrics, National PTA, American Medical Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Association of School Nurses, and the Society of Pediatric Nurses are among the groups backing later start times.

Although Ohio doesn't keep track of when districts are starting the day, Start School Later has determined that about 7:30 a.m. is the most common time for middle and high school students to head to first period. The national average is 7:59 a.m., according to the CDC.

Those times conflict with research that shows students, particularly teens, get their best sleep between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m.

Stacy Simera, a spokeswoman for Start School Later, said students who lack sleep are more likely to be obese, have trouble focusing in school, suffer sports injuries, be involved in car accidents, and become addicted to drugs, among other issues.

The connection between additional sleep for teens and improved health and academic outcomes has caught the attention of district leaders, but resulting changes to bell schedules in Ohio have been few and far between. Districts often point to increased costs as the reason for maintaining the status quo.

Olentangy Local School District, which is the seventh largest district in the state, is among those that studied the possibility of later start times over the last few years, but chose not to move forward with them. It announced over the summer that changes would require purchasing an additional 141 school buses at a cost of \$12.5 million and adding \$7.8 million in annual operating costs.

Like others who've looked into making moves, the district also determined that parents of elementary students don't support earlier start times for their students so that later middle and high school times can be accommodated.

Bus schedules and concerns about child care "are two of the principal challenges in terms of trying to move the start times," said Tom Ash, director of governmental relations for the Buckeye Association of School Administrators.

"You have districts that, in order to economize (busing), have what are known as double, triple and even quadruple runs, so they might even be serving two, three or four schools with kids of different ages," he said. "So that becomes an issue."

Mr. Ash said districts aren't dismissing the research on earlier start times, they're just simply running into roadblocks to implement them.

There are districts that have modified start times without increased costs, though, Ms. Simera contended. If there are costs, she said that they shouldn't be a deal breaker.

"Not only can every school afford healthy start times, schools can no longer afford not to. As an Ohio taxpayer and mental health clinician, it concerns me that we are ignoring such low-hanging fruit in fighting two Ohio-specific epidemics: obesity and substance abuse - both of which are correlated with chronic deficient sleep," she said.

"While we know there are many factors involved in obesity and substance abuse, we should certainly address one of the known factors that we can greatly influence - namely healthy sleep."

According to Start School Later, districts that have pushed back start times without incurring additional costs include Hudson, Dublin, Kenston, and Perrysburg schools.

Westlake and Parma schools also pushed back start times when they eliminated busing for high school students.

Ohio Unemployment Rate Moves Up To 5.2%

The biggest increases occurred in leisure and hospitality (+5,200), local government (+3,900) and financial activities (+1,200) sectors. July's biggest losses were in goods-producing industries (-2,700) and business services (-2,400).

Over the last 12 months, Ohio added 47,500 jobs, led by private service providers (37,700) and construction (5,900), ODJFS reported. The larger drops occurred in trade, transportation, and utilities (-4,900) and durable goods manufacturing (-1,800).

Rea S. Hederman Jr., executive vice president at the Buckeye Institute, said that along with the labor market dip, Ohioans stopped looking for work as labor force participation fell to national levels at 62.9%.

"In addition, private sector job opportunities continued the stream of bad news, with 2,500 fewer private sector jobs in July compared to June," he said.

"Overall, the Ohio July jobs report is a sober one," Mr. Hederman said. "While one month of data can be a statistical anomaly, policymakers should begin considering measures to increase economic opportunities in Ohio's private sector."

Policy Matters Ohio observed that without the growth in public sector jobs, the state would have lost positions last month. The group reiterated its criticisms of GOP tax policies in recent years.

"State tax giveaways to corporations and the wealthy have not produced the promised job growth. Instead, we have lost the revenue we need to invest in policies like need-based college financial aid that help build the middle class," PMO researcher Hannah Halbert said. "Federal policymakers would be well-served by studying Ohio's performance before implementing tax changes that overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest in the nation."

Roegner Announces Senate Bid; Buckeye Institute Opines On Potential Veto Overrides...

Rep. Kristina Roegner announced her intent to run for the Senate seat currently occupied by term-limited Sen. Frank LaRose.

The Hudson Republican, who is term limited in the House, said her goals if elected to the Senate would be much the same as her priorities in her current seat representing the 37th House District.

"It would absolutely be the same as it's been in the House," she said. "Continue to help set a stage that's inviting to businesses in Ohio and that includes regulatory reform which I've done a lot of in individual industries."

Making the tax climate more competitive with other states by lowering taxes and strengthening the education system would also be priorities, the representative said. So too would be legislation like her pending cosmetology bill (HB 189) which she said would "make it easier and smoother for people to get jobs and not jump through so many hurdles in government."

"I'm going to continue the work we've started and continue that onto the Senate," she said. "I want to make sure government doesn't waste taxpayer dollars. If we can spend taxpayer dollars smarter and get more for it that's what we need to do."

The 27th Senate District encompasses all of Wayne County and parts of Summit and Stark. Other incumbent House members whose districts align with that district include term-limited Rep. Marilyn Slaby and freshman Rep. Scott Wiggam.

Rep. Roegner reported receiving \$78,000 since January in her recent semiannual report, leaving her with about \$78,700 in cash on hand.

Veto Overrides: The Buckeye Institute is weighing in on several outstanding budget veto overrides the Senate may take up next week.

Senators are expected to return Tuesday to consider some of the 11 overrides the House approved in July. How many overrides and which specifically the chamber will choose to take up isn't clear. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 16, 2017)

Among overrides the Institute is urging senators to approve are the governor's vetoes of the Healthy Ohio waiver and of language creating legislative oversight of Medicaid spending increases.

But the group is asking senators to let stand the governor's veto on the Medicaid managed care sales tax replacement plan.

"We agree with Gov. Kasich's veto of the proposed replacement for local Medicaid sales tax revenues and we were disappointed that the Ohio House overrode the governor's veto," said Greg Lawson, an institute research fellow. "This proposal is a tax on insurance plans and as with most government taxes, it is highly unlikely that this new tax will be 'temporary.' It is time for local governments to go to their voters and convince them of the need to raise local taxes for local services rather than blaming Columbus for their inability to spend wisely."

Issue 2: Proponents of the controversial Issue 2 - also known as the "Drug Price Relief Act" - praised ballot language approved by the Ballot Board Thursday.

Yes on Issue 2 and its counterpart, Ohioans Against the Deceptive Rx Ballot Issue, negotiated compromise ballot language that the board then signed off on with little discussion.(See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 17, 2017)

Both sides said the language presented an accurate description of the November ballot issue, which would prohibit the state from purchasing prescription drugs for prices beyond what the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs pays.

"Voters in Ohio are well-informed, smart and angry at the greedy drug companies that have been price-gouging the sick and suffering, and putting profits before patients," said Dennis Willard, a spokesman for the proponents. "The language is simple and straightforward just like our plan to lower drug prices for 4 million Ohioans and save taxpayers \$400 million a year."

Opponents claim the statute, if adopted by voters, would actually drive the cost of drugs higher.

OSU Study: \$152M In Lost Property Value Thanks To Algal Blooms...

Harmful algal blooms in Ohio have cost homeowners \$152 million in lost property value over the last six years, according to researchers.

That figure comes from a new Ohio State University study that examined the financial impacts of blooms in Buckeye Lake and Grand Lake St. Marys. A second study quantified the financial impact of blooms to sport fishing revenue generated by Lake Erie.

OSU bills the reports, published respectively in *Ecological Economics* and the *Journal of Environmental Management* as the first of their kind to put a dollar figure on the impact of algae. Researchers said they hope the studies will equip lawmakers with new information to create adequate algae prevention and cleanup resources.

"Our biggest takeaway is that efforts to prevent and mitigate algal blooms have real, tangible benefits for Ohioans, including property values," said Allen Klaiber, associate professor of agricultural, environmental and development economics at OSU.

The first study examines property values in the two interior lakes, finding that total values fell \$152 million from 2009-2015. Sales prices for homes within one-third of a mile from the lake fell 11-17% while adjacent homes saw prices dropping more than 22%, the report found.

In Buckeye Lake the drop was more severe, with the loss of \$101 million in home sales over six years. Grand Lake St. Marys saw a \$51 million loss.

Regarding Lake Erie, which fuels a \$1.7 billion tourism industry, simulations showed a "moderate" bloom would result in a 10-13% decrease in fishing license sales within 12 miles of the lake.

A severe bloom, akin to what occurred in 2011, would lead to 3,600 fewer licenses sold, and as much as \$5.6 million in lost revenue in a single summer, the researchers determined.

Governor Appointment Reaction: The Ohio Environmental Council praised Gov. John Kasich's recent appointment of Sarah Spence to the Public Benefits Advisory Board. Ms. Spence is OEC's director of government affairs and was appointed this week.

"The board works with the director of the development services agency to ensure energy services are provided to low-income consumers in Ohio in an affordable manner," said Aryeh Alex, the OEC's vice president of public affairs. "Sarah is the right person for the job, and will add a strong environmental voice to the governor's administration."

Rover: A cease-and-desist order from the government of West Virginia was recently lifted, clearing the Rover Pipeline project to continue. That's over the objections of environmental groups who argue the project is harming the environment.

Meanwhile, a new *Bloomberg* analysis determined that the Rover project has set a new record for environmental violations. The publication determined the project, since its approval in February, has racked up more violations than any other major interstate natural gas pipeline built in the last two years.

Rover filings showed 104 negative inspection reports, according to *Bloomberg*. The next closest was the Williams' Virginia Southside Expansion which reported 26 violations.

To be fair, the 710-mile Rover is a longer pipeline than other projects included in the analysis. Still, the next-longest - the 515-mile Enbridge Sabal Trail - reported 18 violations.

Energy Transfer Partners, the company behind the project, said it is working with regulatory agencies at all levels to meet safety and environmental regulations. But friction continues between the company, opponents and regulatory agencies in Ohio and beyond. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 7, 2017)

Report Links STEM Skills, Quality Pre-K; President Approves GI Bill Expansion...

Business and military leaders are calling on state leaders to focus on early childhood education to ensure students are better prepared to enter the future workforce.

They joined Council for Strong America this week to release a new report highlighting the correlation between high-quality Pre-K and STEM skills.

The analysis also details projections for STEM workforce growth - an area that military and tech business stakeholders said during a Dayton press conference is a major concern. Health and computer technology industries are expected to grow by as much as 37% nationwide in the coming years, they said.

Currently, 65% of eighth graders aren't proficient in math and 60% aren't proficient in science, the report shows. About one-third of college students, meanwhile, require remediation in math or English.

"As a result, employers - both in the private sector and the military - are struggling to find the STEM skilled workforce they need," the authors of the report wrote. "That is why business and military leaders in Ohio are calling on policymakers to invest more in high-quality early education where STEM skills take root."

According to the report, research shows that individuals with early exposure to math have improved abilities in the subject area later on and that early learning supports cognitive abilities as well as social-and emotional skills that are beneficial in STEM career fields.

"The young people we will seek to recruit for the military, postsecondary education, and private sector jobs in less than 15 years should be entering pre-K today," former Adjutant General Deborah Ashenhurst said in a statement. "A greater investment in high-quality pre-K will have lasting impact for our children, for Ohio, and for our nation."

GI Bill: The president this week signed bipartisan legislation to expand education opportunities to post-9/11 veterans and restore GI Bill benefits to those who attended now-defunct technical colleges.

The bill removes a 15-year time limit on the benefits, allowing veterans and their dependents to use them for life. Among other things, it also extends eligibility for reservists, provides full benefits for Purple Heart recipients and increases GI Bill payments by \$2,300 per year for veterans with less than 12 months of active service.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland), who helped draft the measure, applauded its enactment.

In particular, he pushed for provisions that restore benefits to veterans who attended shuttered career technical colleges and alert veterans to schools offering priority enrollment.

"Ohio veterans deserve better than to have the rug pulled out from under them by for-profit colleges," Sen. Brown said in a statement. "This bill is an important step towards rectifying the fraudulent practices of these schools and restoring and expanding the GI benefits our veterans have earned."

The measure also expands eligibility for the Department of Veterans Affairs' Yellow Ribbon Program to spouses and children of service members who died in combat. The program that helps students avoid out-of-pocket college costs above their GI Bill benefits is currently available only to veterans and spouses and children of service members.

Insurance: An insurance checklist for college students and their parents is now available from the Department of Insurance.

The checklist details insurance options for illness and injury, dental and eye care, personal protections and liability, renters and vehicles.

"Life away from home is a great opportunity for young adults to learn and grow, but it also presents considerations and challenges," ODI Director Jillian Froment said. "It is important that students and parents conduct an insurance review and consider including an insurance agent in the process."

Survey: The Ohio Department of Education is seeking input on proposed updates to Ohio's model curriculum for English and math in grades K-12. An online survey will be open through Sept. 13.

The model curriculum, which is set to go before the State Board of Education for approval this fall, will serve as a guide for teachers to help them better understand the knowledge and skills required under Ohio's Learning Standards - the basis for state tests.

Agency Briefs: RFP Issued For Marijuana Monitoring System; AG; SOS; EPA; BWC; MHAS; DNR

The state's Medical Marijuana Control Program is seeking a contractor for a system to monitor video surveillance at growers, processors and dispensaries.

The Department of Commerce issued the request for proposals this week as the program's rules, which cleared the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review at the end of July, were officially filed.

The rules go into effect Sept. 8. They cleared JCARR after a nearly yearlong development process that began following the program's enabling legislation, which went into effect last fall. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 31, 2017)

The RFP for the video management system requires one that can accept feeds from any camera operator and allow the state to see inside facilities at any time.

"Given an initial camera population of over 1,000 cameras across an Ohio medical marijuana entity facility population of 100+ facilities, the State requires an efficient means of monitoring camera operational status as well as an efficient path for identifying a particular camera at a particular facility for real-time camera viewing," the state said in its description.

Attorney General: Mike DeWine and attorneys general from 49 other states and territories urged Congress to amend the Communications Decency Act of 1996 to clarify that states and local governments can investigate and prosecute facilitators of child sex trafficking wherever they operate, including online.

"The proposed amended language to the Communications Decency Act will help to ensure that citizens and children are effectively protected throughout the entire country,

in all courts," Attorney General DeWine said in a statement. "The intention of the Communications Decency Act is to protect children from indecent material online. It was never intended to place facilitators of child sex trafficking outside the reach of law enforcement."

Courts have interpreted the current language to allow only federal authorities to take action against companies that facilitate sex trafficking. The AGs urged in their letter for the law to be clarified.

Secretary of State: Jon Husted announced that all filings required to start or maintain a business in Ohio can now be submitted online. Owners can also submit all Uniform Commercial Code statements and certified search requests through the web, he said.

"Since day one, our office has committed itself to working on behalf of job creators and entrepreneurs to make it easier to start and maintain a business in Ohio," Secretary Husted said in a statement. "By improving the way our office does business, we are helping companies cut costs, save time, and reduce administrative burden so they can focus on providing quality services and products, as well as create jobs."

The secretary's office also announced that 8,800 new entities filed to do business in the state in July, up 1,279 compared to the previous July. A total of 71,979 entities have filed in Ohio this year.

Ohio EPA: The agency will hold a public hearing next week to receive comments on proposed water quality standards, including standards covering pesticides, dredged material and E. coli.

The hearing will begin at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, in the Ohio EPA Conference Center at 50 West Town Street in Columbus.

Written comments can be sent to Rules Coordinator, Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049, or emailed to dsw_rulecomments@epa.ohio.gov, through Aug. 23.

Workers' Compensation: The bureau announced that seven employers and injured workers who attempted to defraud the agency were convicted in July. The BWC's special investigations department has totaled 90 convictions so far this year.

"Workers' compensation fraud raises the cost of the system for everyone involved," said SID Director Jim Wernecke. "I hope these latest convictions serve as a reminder to those attempting to steal from BWC: We have investigators all over the state. We will find you, bring you to justice and make you repay the funds you illicitly acquired."

Mental Health and Addiction Services: The department said it is conducting a needs assessment with treatment providers as part of activities connected to the federal 21st Century CURES Act. The department is collecting information on what providers are doing and what needs they have for treating people with opioid-related disorders.

The assessment runs through Sept. 8. Providers who did not receive invitations can contact Laura Potts at laura.potts@mha.ohio.gov.

Natural Resources: The department announced it will hold special deer hunts at six state nature preserves across the state. Drawings will be held for the hunts, and entries cost \$5.

Governor's Appointments

Ohio University Board of Trustees: Stephen P. Casciani of Delaware (Delaware Co.) for a term beginning Aug. 18 and ending May 13, 2026.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Tuesday, August 22

Public Facilities Commission, 35th Fl., 30 E. Broad St., Columbus, 2 p.m.

Thursday, August 24

BWC Board of Directors, Rm. 3, Level 2, 30 W. Spring St., Columbus, 8:30 a.m. (The Investment Committee will meet 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.; the Actuarial Committee 10:30 a.m. to noon; the Medical Services & Safety Committee 1 to 2 p.m.; the Governance Committee 2 to 2:30 p.m.; and the Audit Committee 2:30 to 4 p.m. The Actuarial, Governance and Audit Committee meetings may begin earlier if the preceding meeting adjourns earlier than scheduled.)

Friday, August 25

BWC Board of Directors, Rm. 3, Level 2, 30 W. Spring St., Columbus, 8 a.m.

Monday, August 28

Southern Ohio Agricultural & Community Development Foundation, 100 S. High St., Hillsboro, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, September 13

Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Release Compensation Board, Suite 1500, 50 W. Broad St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the # after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Daily Activity Planner for Saturday, August 19- Monday, August 21

Legislative Committees

Monday, June 4

Canceled: Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review-(Committee Record) (Chr. Duffey, M., 644-6030), Rm. 121, 1:30 p.m.

Agency Calendar

Monday, August 21

Controlling Board, North Hearing Rm., Senate Bldg., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Saturday, August 19

Ohio Democratic Women's Caucus Luncheon, Hilton Columbus Downtown, 401 N High St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Keynote Speaker is Kathleen Sebelius. For more information contact contact Rachel Rossi (rachel@ohiodems.org))

Monday, August 21

**Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) golf outing fundraiser, Urbana Country Club, 4761 US-36, Urbana, (9:00 am Registration | 10:00 am Shotgun Start | Lunch at the turn on the go | 2:30 pm Short Program. \$1,000 Tournament Sponsor; \$600 Eagle Sponsor; \$200 Hole Sponsor; \$100 Golfer)
OHROC Lake Erie Boat Cruise and Reception with Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), Rep. Steve Arndt (R-Port Clinton), and Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Fremont), Catawba Island Club, 4235 E. Beach Club Road, Port Clinton, 5:30 p.m., (5:30pm Arrive at Catawba Island Club; 6:00pm Depart on Burger Yacht "Gemini"; 8:00pm Reception. Sponsor: \$5,000; Host: \$2,500; Patron: \$1,000; Guest: \$500 to OHROC)**

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Thursday, August 24

**Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) golf outing fundraiser, London Country Club, 1199 Spring Valley Rd., London, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration | 10:00am Shotgun Start. \$1,000 Ace Sponsor, \$700 Eagle Sponsor, \$500 Cart Sponsorship, \$250 Hole Sponsorship, \$150 Cart Sponsorship, \$100 Tee Sponsorship, \$85 Individual to Hackett for Ohio)
Hamilton County GOP State Legislators golf outing fundraiser, Glenview Golf Course, 10965 Springfield Pike, Cincinnati, 10 a.m., (\$1500 Sponsor; \$300 Hole Sponsor; \$175 Golfer)**

Sunday, August 27

Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) shooting fundraiser, Nagle Trucking, 4520 Moline-Martin Road, Walbridge, 1:30 p.m., (Expert: \$250; Sharpshooter: \$100 to Citizens for Gavarone)

Monday, August 28

Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) golf outing fundraiser, Moundbuilders Country Club, 125 N. 33rd Street, Newark, 10 a.m., (10:00am Registration; 11:00am Shotgun Start. Event Sponsor: \$2,500; Food and Beverage Sponsor: \$1,000; Tee Sponsor: \$750; Foursome: \$500; Individual Golfer: \$125; Green Sponsor: \$100 to Citizens for Scott Ryan)

Wednesday, August 30

Rep. Adam Miller (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Condados Downtown, 132 S. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$500 or Suggested Donation: \$250 to Miller for Ohio)

Thursday, August 31

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) & Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) fundraiser, Muirfield Village Country Club, 8715 Memorial Drive, Dublin, 8:30 a.m., (\$500 each committee to Citizens for Bill Beagle and Peterson for Good Government)
Sen. Gayle Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) fundraiser, Willoway Nursery, 4535 Center Rd. (Route 83), Avon, 5:30 p.m., (\$500 Lilac Sponsor - includes 6 tickets; \$400 Hydrangea Sponsor - includes 4 tickets; \$200 Rose Sponsor - includes 2 tickets; \$125 per Couple | \$75 per Person to Committee to Elect Manning)

Sunday, September 10

Rep. Marlene Anielski (R-Walton Hills) Pig Roast Clam Bake fundraiser, Heidelberg Distributing Company, 9101 E. Pleasant Valley Road, Independence, 2 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Couple: \$140; Individual: \$75; Dozen Extra Clams: \$15 to Friends of Marlene B. Anielski)

Tuesday, September 12

Democratic gubernatorial debate, Martins Ferry High School, 5000 Ayers Limestone Rd., Martins Ferry
House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) fundraiser, Athletic Club, Gold Rm., 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$5,000; Sponsor: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Guest: \$500 to Committee to Elect Cliff Rosenberger)

Wednesday, September 13

Rep. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) fundraiser, Plank's Cafeteria, 743 Parsons Avenue, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Platinum Level - \$2,500; Gold Level - \$1,500; Silver Level - \$1,000; Bronze - \$500 or \$350 per person to Committee for Jim Hughes)
Rep. Mark Romanchuk (R-Mansfield) fundraiser, Little Palace, 240 S. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Romanchuk for State Rep)

Thursday, September 14

Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) fundraiser, Pro Football Hall of Fame, 2121 George Halas Dr NW, Canton
Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) golf outing fundraiser, Kirtland Country Club, 39438 Kirtland Road, Willoughby, 10 a.m., (10:00am Brunch, 11:00am Golf. Friends of John Eklund)
Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park) fundraiser, Cheney residence, 6988 Greensward Road, New Albany, 6 p.m., (\$1,000 Host | \$500 Sponsor | \$250 per Attendee to Citizens for Kevin Bacon)

Friday, September 15

Rep. Bob Cupp (R-Lima) golf outing fundraiser, Tamarac Golf Course, 500 N. Stevick Road, Lima, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration; 10:00am Shotgun Start. Event Sponsor: \$1,000; Tee Sponsor: \$500; Foursome: \$400; Green Sponsor: \$350; Lunch Sponsor: \$250; Individual Golfer: \$125 to Cupp for State Representative Committee)

Monday, September 18

Sen. Cliff Hite (R-Findlay) golf outing fundraiser, Eagle Rock Country Club, 211 Carpenter Rd., Defiance, (The Committee to Elect Cliff Hite)

Tuesday, September 19

Rep. Tavia Galonski (D-Akron) fundraiser, Westies Gastropub, 940 S. Front Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Tavia Galonski)

Wednesday, September 20

**Rep. Brian Hill (R-Zanesville) and Rep. Al Landis (R-Dover) fundraiser, OHROC, 21 W. Broad Street, Floor 7, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Brian D. Hill for State Representative and/or Friends for Allen Landis)
Rep. Andy Thompson (R-Marietta) and Rep. Wes Goodman (R-Cardington) fundraiser, The Keep, 50 W. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Andy Thompson for State Representative and/or Friends of Wes Goodman)**

Thursday, September 21

Republican Senate Campaign Committee fundraiser, Basil's on Market, 312 N Patterson Boulevard, Dayton, 5:30 p.m., (\$5,000 Event Chair | \$2,500 Event Co-Chair | \$1,500 Event Sponsor | \$1,000 Event Host | \$500 Individual to RSCC)

Monday, September 25

**Rep. Gary Scherer (R-Circleville) golf outing fundraiser, Cooks Creek Golf Club, 16405 U.S. Highway 23, Ashville, 11 a.m., (11:00am Registration and Lunch; 12:00pm Shotgun Start. Event Sponsor: \$1,500; Green Sponsor: \$750; Foursome: \$500; Individual Golfer: \$125; Hole Sponsor: \$100 to Friends of Gary Scherer)
Sen. Frank LaRose (R-Hudson) golf outing fundraiser, Firestone Country Club, 452 East Warner Road, Akron, 11:30 a.m., (Lunch & Range Time 11:30am. Tee times starting at 1:05pm. \$300 Lunch Only | \$1,000 Lunch and Golf to LaRose for Ohio)**

Thursday, September 28

Sen. President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) shotgun and pig roast fundraiser, Hill'n Dale Club, 3605 Poe Road, Medina, 2 p.m., (2:30-3:00pm - Sign in/Registration/ Meet and greet with Senator Obhof in the Hill'n Dale Lodge; 3:00 pm - Clay Shooting: 5-Stand with Group or Optional Course on your Own. 5:00-6:00pm - Dinner. \$500 Distinguished Expert/Station Sponsor: \$250 Sharp Shooter: \$150 First Class: \$100 Marksman: \$75 Sponsor to Citizens for Obhof)

Friday, September 29

Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) Day at the Races fundraiser, Belterra, 6301 Kellogg Rd., Cincinnati, 12:30 p.m., (11:30am Park Opens | 12:30pm Lunch | 1:45pm Live Racing Begins. \$1500 Triple Crown | \$1,000 Champion | \$750 Winner's Circle | \$500 Thoroughbred | \$250 Jockey Club | \$100 per Attendee The Committee to Elect Joe Uecker)

Sunday, October 1

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) fall fest fundraiser, Peterson Farm, 5564 Grassy Branch Rd., Sabina, 4 p.m., (\$25 per Person or \$50 per Family to Peterson for Good Government)

Monday, October 2

OHROC Chairman's Cup golf outing fundraiser

Wednesday, October 4

Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) & Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) fundraiser, Muirfield Village Country Club, 8715 Memorial Drive, Dublin, 8:30 a.m., (\$500 each committee to Troy Balderson for State Senate and Citizens for Stephanie Kunze)

Thursday, October 5

Sen. Louis Terhar (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Schilderink residence, 9675 Cunningham Road, Cincinnati, 6 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Sponsor | \$1,000 Sponsor | \$500 Host | \$250 Couple | \$200 Individual to Friends of Lou Terhar)

Sunday, October 8

Republican gubernatorial candidate forum, Genoa Baptist Church, 7562 Lewis Center Rd., Westerville, 7 p.m., (Sponsored by Citizens for Community Values and Salem Media of Ohio)

Wednesday, October 11

Rep. Terry Johnson (R-McDermott) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Terry Johnson for State Rep)

Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to Committee to Elect Cliff Rosenberger)
Sen. Lou Terhar (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Fleming residence, 2374 Brixton Road, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Sponsor | \$1,000 Sponsor | \$500 Host | \$250 Couple | \$200 Individual to Friends of Lou Terhar)

Friday, October 13

OSBA Law & Media Conference, Ohio State Bar Association, 1700 Lake Shore Dr., Columbus, 9:30 a.m., (Registration at 8:30 a.m. For more information contact Halie Malcomb, hmalcomb@ohiobar.org)

Tuesday, October 17

Republican Senate Campaign Committee pig roast fundraiser, Land Grant Brewery, 424 W. Town St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$10,000 Whole Hog Sponsor | \$5,000 Half Hog Sponsor | \$2,500 Loin Sponsor | \$1000 Bacon Sponsor | \$500 per Attendee to RSCC)

Wednesday, October 18

Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) fundraiser, Scioto Country Club, 2196 Riverside Dr., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Event Sponsor \$1000, Event Host \$500, \$150 per couple, \$100 per individual to Citizens for Stephanie Kunze)

Thursday, October 19

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) shooting fundraiser, Vandalia Range and Armory, 100 Corp Center Drive, Vandalia, 5:30 p.m., (Please make checks payable to Citizens for Bill Beagle)

Wednesday, November 1

Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) and Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens to Elect Craig Riedel and/or Kristina Daley Roegner for Ohio)

Wednesday, November 29

Ohio House Republican Organizing Committee fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to OHROC)

Wednesday, February 28

Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Legislative Luncheon, Renaissance Hotel, 50 N. 3rd St., Columbus, 12 p.m.

Monday, June 4

**Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Golf Outing, The Lakes, 6740
Worthington Rd., Westerville**

**Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Golf Outing, The Lakes, 6740
Worthington Rd., Westerville**

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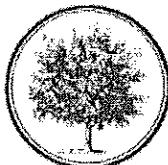
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 22, 2017

The Buckeye Institute Experts Weigh-in on Senate Veto Overrides

Columbus, OH - The Buckeye Institute's experts commented on actions taken by the Ohio Senate regarding Governor John Kasich's vetoes in the state's biennial budget.

Medicaid Managed Care Sales Tax Replacement Plan

"We are pleased that the Ohio Senate did not override Governor Kasich's veto of the Medicaid managed care organization sales tax replacement plan and we hope it is not resurrected at a future point," said **Greg R. Lawson**, research fellow at The Buckeye Institute. "This is a difficult decision, given that county and local officials are clamoring for more taxpayer dollars, however, it is the right one. This is not the time to raise taxes on health insurance plans, but it is time for local governments to justify their local spending to local taxpayers."

Healthy Ohio Waiver

"It is disappointing that today the Senate did not act to join the House in overriding Governor Kasich's veto of the Healthy Ohio waiver," said **Rea S. Hederman Jr.**, executive vice president at The Buckeye Institute and a nationally recognized expert in health care policy. "With Washington's failure to act on health care reform, the Healthy Ohio waiver would empower Medicaid recipients to obtain better care, put Ohio's Medicaid program on sounder financial footing, and ensure that needy Medicaid enrollees have access to good medical care."

Hederman continued, "The Senate has until the end of the legislative session to reconsider and override the governor's veto of Healthy Ohio. In addition, the Ohio House also has until the end of the legislative session to override the governor's veto of the Medicaid expansion freeze, which the Senate could then act on. These two actions would further ensure that Medicaid is made sustainable and is focused on the truly needy."

Legislative Oversight of the Controlling Board

"The Senate acted wisely and deserves a round of applause for joining the House in restoring legislative oversight to the Controlling Board," said **Rea S. Hederman Jr.**, executive vice president at The Buckeye Institute and a nationally recognized expert in health care policy. "The Senate's action guarantees that the full legislature will have the final say in approving major new spending programs and all the strings that come with them."

#

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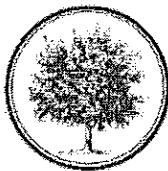
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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

The Medicaid Pac-Man Keeps Eating-Up Your Tax Dollars

By Greg R. Lawson

August 23, 2017

According to the Office of Budget and Management's **first monthly report** from the new fiscal, the Pac-Man of the state budget, Medicaid continues to grow.

The table below, from the OBM report, shows that Medicaid spending in July of 2017 (the first month of Fiscal Year 2018) was \$271.9 million more than the spending in July of 2016. That is a 16 percent increase and one of the largest increases in state government.

Table 4
GENERAL REVENUE FUND DISBURSEMENTS
ACTUAL FY 2018 VS ACTUAL FY 2017
(\$ in thousands)

Functional Reporting Categories Description	MONTH				YEAR-TO-DATE			
	JULY FY 2018	JULY FY 2017	\$ VAR	% VAR	ACTUAL FY 2018	ACTUAL FY 2017	\$ VAR	% VAR
Primary and Secondary Education	781,970	738,815	43,154	5.8%	781,970	738,815	43,154	5.8%
Higher Education	170,355	160,677	(10,322)	-5.7%	170,355	160,677	(10,322)	-5.7%
Other Education	7,952	8,317	(365)	-4.4%	7,952	8,317	(365)	-4.4%
Medicaid	1,972,140	1,700,244	271,896	16.0%	1,972,140	1,700,244	271,896	16.0%
Health and Human Services	121,558	125,917	(4,359)	-3.5%	121,558	125,917	(4,359)	-3.5%
Justice and Public Protection	273,532	261,533	11,999	4.6%	273,532	261,533	11,999	4.6%
General Government	43,967	33,536	10,431	31.1%	43,967	33,536	10,431	31.1%
Property Tax Reimbursements	3,158	74	3,084	4171.5%	3,158	74	3,084	4171.5%
Debt Service	228,477	244,405	(15,928)	-6.5%	228,477	244,405	(15,928)	-6.5%
Total Expenditures & ISTV's	3,603,109	3,293,519	309,590	9.4%	3,603,109	3,293,519	309,590	9.4%
Transfers Out:								
BSF Transfer	0	29,453	(29,483)	N/A	0	29,483	(29,483)	N/A
Operating Transfer Out	500	169,738	(169,238)	-99.7%	500	169,738	(169,238)	-99.7%
Temporary Transfer Out	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	N/A
Total Transfers Out	500	199,221	(198,721)	-99.7%	500	199,221	(198,721)	-99.7%
Total Fund Uses	3,603,609	3,492,739	110,870	3.2%	3,603,609	3,492,739	110,870	3.2%

Source: Office of Budget and Management

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Those numbers should frighten everyone.

Thus far, Medicaid spending continues to grow rapidly and consume all in its path. In fact, Medicaid spending growth was happening well before the misguided expansion in 2013, and the influx of three quarters of a million able-bodied adults into the program has added new stresses on the program.

And while Congress can't seem to get its act together on repealing and replacing Obamacare, the "free federal money," which of course, isn't really free, is being cut under the current law. Which means more cost to you through your state tax dollars and your federal tax dollars.

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There's No Such Thing as Free Medicaid Dollars

Someone once said there's no such thing as a free lunch. The same is true of Medicaid dollars. Whether the money is coming from the state or from the federal government, it is still your taxpayer dollars.

Medicaid is a joint state/federal program where both levels of government contribute tax dollars. The amount of federal tax dollars sent to individual states varies based upon population and poverty rates. The percentage of federal dollars spent in any state is known as the federal medical assistance percentage, or FMAP. For Ohio, the regular FMAP is **62.32 percent**. This means that for every dollar spent on non-expansion Medicaid recipients, Ohio puts in more than 37 cents and the federal government more than 62 cents. But remember, all that money is taxpayer dollars, so it is all being collected from you and me.

The government had to complicate matters, as governments often do, when it set a different FMAP for those qualifying under Obamacare's Medicaid expansion. Initially the federal government (again, using your tax dollars) would cover 100 percent of costs for the expansion population.

Sounds good, right? This is a vastly more generous reimbursement than the feds give for the rest of the Medicaid program, including for the elderly, disabled, and medically fragile children. The enhanced funding gave the illusion of the expansion being essentially free to the state, but, of course, just because the money is redistributed from D.C., doesn't mean it's not still your tax dollars.

However, the FMAP for those qualifying under Obamacare's Medicaid expansion was always intended to be temporary and it is scheduled to be phased down to 90 percent by 2020 and further still in the future. That means the state will be required to cover more of the costs over time.

Two Steps Forward, One Step Back

In an effort to begin to get control of Medicaid spending, the General Assembly took some steps in the most recent biennial budget bill. Among these include: reforms to how much unexpected federal dollars the **Controlling Board** can spend without the assent of

the full General Assembly and reasserting legislative control over expanding Medicaid to populations that aren't mandated under federal law.

These policy changes are good first steps in reigning in the Pac-Man of the Ohio budget and put Medicaid on a sounder financial footing.

Unfortunately, despite all its work during the budget process to include a requirement that the Kasich Administration resubmit the **Healthy Ohio** waiver to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Ohio Senate has not joined the Ohio House in overriding Governor Kasich's veto. The waiver would empower Medicaid recipients to obtain better care, return to work, and ensure that needy Medicaid enrollees have access to good medical services.

The Senate has until the end of the legislative session to join the House in voting to override the governor's veto, not doing so would be a missed opportunity to improve Medicaid even further while showing Washington that Ohio, and other states, can take the lead in smart health policy.

Greg R. Lawson is the research fellow at The Buckeye Institute.

#

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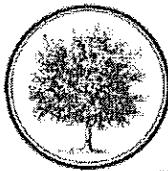
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Buckeye's Greg Lawson recently authored the below piece for the *2017 Index of Culture and Opportunity* which is published by the Heritage Foundation. The index evaluates a range of factors needed to sustain freedom and opportunity in America.

A Mixed National Jobs Picture

The Heritage Foundation's *2017 Index of Culture and Opportunity*
By Greg R. Lawson

Key job metrics over the past decade paint a mixed national jobs picture. On one hand, the number of job openings over that time shows a positive path and indicates relative optimism in the economy. On the other hand, the actual hiring rate fell, which suggests that not all is well in the labor market. Taken together, this shows the need to continue improving the environment for economic opportunities that can help all Americans.

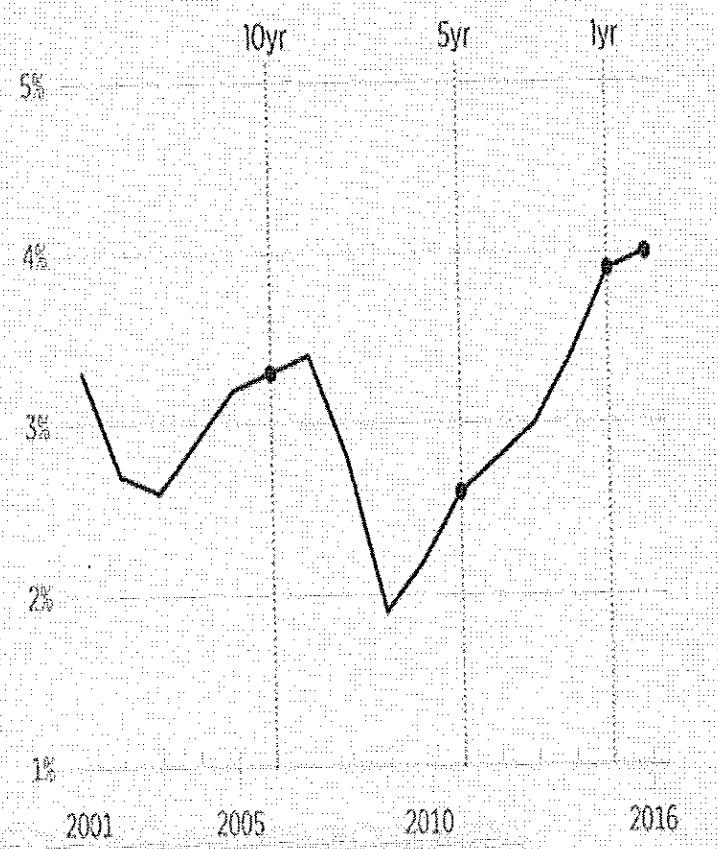
Given the "Great Recession" of 2007-2009, it is heartening to see that the overall job-opening rate has managed to achieve a positive direction. According to the U.S. Department of Labor Jobs Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS), the number of job openings grew by 0.7 percentage point between 2006 and 2016.[1] This set of data is critical to understanding how many job opportunities exist in the economy. The higher this number and growth rate, the greater the chances an individual looking for work will be able to find it.

CHANGES | 10-year ▲ 0.7 | 5-year ▲ 1.4 | 1-year ▲ 0.1

Job Openings Rate

From 2006 to 2016,
the job openings rate
increased by 0.7
percentage point.

MONTHLY JOB OPENINGS/VACANCIES AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL PRIVATE-SECTOR JOBS AND JOB OPENINGS



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey.

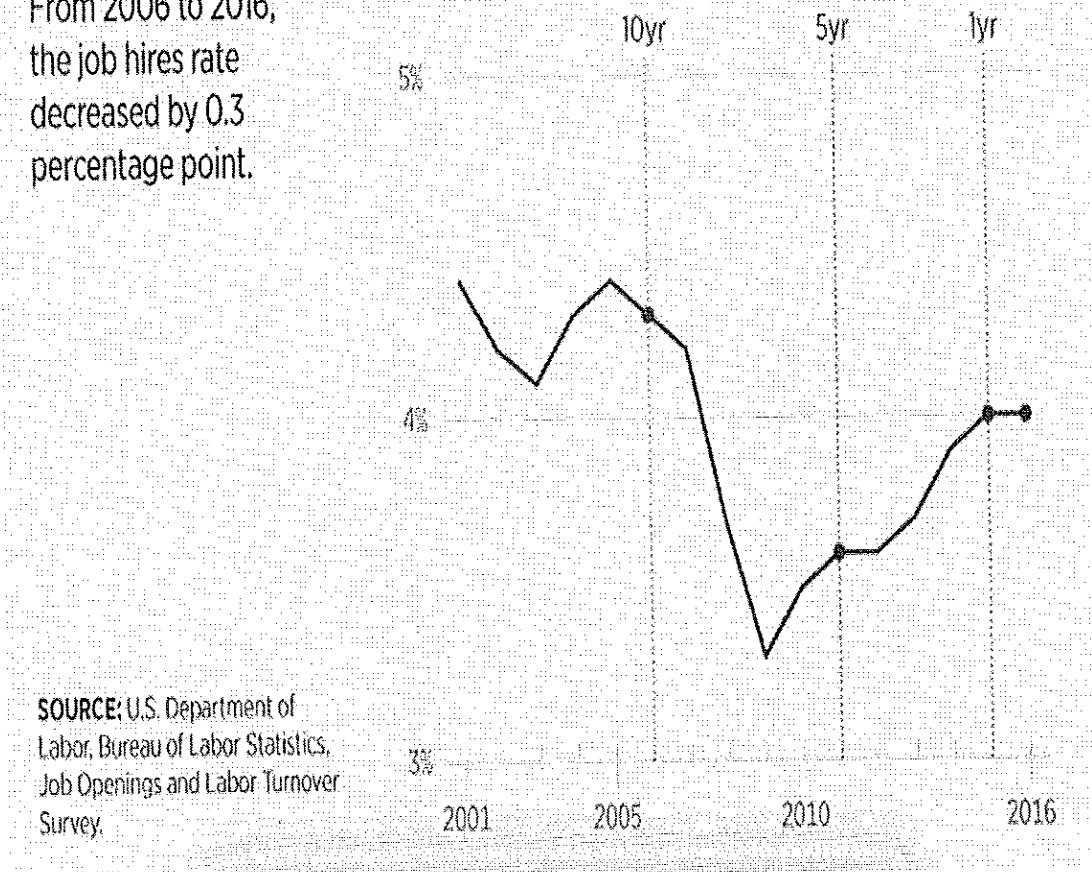
Yet the JOLTS data also show that actual hiring rates declined over the same 10 years by 0.3 percent.[2] One clear implication of this divergence is that there remains a significant challenge within the overall labor force. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), in January 2006, the labor force participation rate (LFPR) in the United States was a reasonably healthy 82.6 percent for the cohort aged 25-54 (the prime-working age population).[3] Yet by December 2016, it was only 81.4 percent and had remained mired at or below 81 percent since the end of 2011.[4] This echoes the disturbing findings in the work of Nicholas Eberstadt and Charles Murray, which detail a long-term trend of lower work rates for middle-age men over the past half-century.[5]

CHANGES | 10-year ▼ 0.3 | 5-year ▲ 0.4 | 1-year No change

Job Hires Rate

From 2006 to 2016,
the job hires rate
decreased by 0.3
percentage point.

MONTHLY NEW HIRES AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL JOBS



This means that there are fewer prospective workers seeking work. While demographic trends in the U.S. can explain a portion of this decline, this is unlikely to be a fully sufficient explanation. For example, the growth of government-funded health care through Medicaid expansion in many states has been shown to reduce the incentives of low-income Americans to seek work.[6]

Another factor is the large number of Americans receiving payments from Social Security's Disability Insurance Fund. In 2016, there were nearly 2 million more

Americans than there were in 2006.[7] Once individuals are on disability, it is often difficult to encourage them to seek gainful employment again or keep them attached to the labor force.[8]

Additionally, drug use and addiction issues make it difficult for many employers to find workers that can pass screenings.[9] This is echoed in findings from some diagnostic information services companies.[10] This is an especially tragic problem in Ohio, which led the nation in opiate overdose fatalities in 2014 with over 2,100.[11]

Finally, the "skills gap" theory assumes that employers are dissatisfied with the skill level of prospective employees and cannot find adequate talent to fill their openings. However, there is a lot of pushback on this theory given that the obvious consequence of such a gap should be rapidly growing wages as employers seek to procure the best talent. Despite a recent upward trend, the fact that a dramatic increase in wages has largely not happened since the end of the Great Recession raises questions about the applicability of this theory.[12]

Years after the Great Recession, significant problems remain when it comes to connecting a broad swath of prospective workers to open jobs. Tackling the hard tasks of reforming Medicaid, better monitoring Social Security Disability payments, and getting treatment for those suffering the scourge of addiction will prove to be indispensable in fixing this state of affairs.

= A

Greg R. Lawson is a research fellow at The Buckeye Institute.

[1] U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS)," multi-screen data search (accessed April 28, 2017).

[2] Ibid.

[3] U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey," (accessed April 28, 2017).

[4] Ibid.

[5] Nicholas Eberstadt, *Men Without Work* (West Conshohocken, PA: Templeton Press, 2016). See also Charles Murray, *Coming Apart: The State of White America: 1960-2010*, (New York, NY: Crown Forum, 2013).

[6] Craig Garthwaite, Tal Gross, and Matthew J. Notowidigo, *Public Health Insurance, Labor Supply, and Employment Lock*, National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper No. 19220, July 2013, (accessed April 28, 2017).

[7] Social Security Administration, Office of the Chief Actuary, "Selected Data from Social Security's Disability Program," (accessed April 6, 2017).

- [8] News release, "Persons with a Disability: Labor Force Characteristics-2015," U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, June 21, 2016, (accessed April 28, 2017).
- [9] Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Association, "New-Hires Refuse or Fail Drug Tests," June 10, 2014, (accessed April 21, 2017).
- [10] News release, "Illicit Drug Positivity Rate Increases Sharply in Workplace Testing, Finds Quest Diagnostics Drug Testing IndexTM Analysis," Quest Diagnostics, June 9, 2015, (accessed April 28, 2017).
- [11] Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, State Health Facts, "Opioid Overdose Deaths by Type of Opioid," 2014, (accessed April 6, 2017).
- [12] News release, "Employment Cost Index-March 2017," U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, April 28, 2017, (accessed May 9, 2017).

#

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health policy institute of ohio

The Health Policy Institute of Ohio's newly updated [**healthcare cost and quality data transparency resource page**](#) includes federal, state and local-level healthcare cost and quality datasets, tools and reporting, as well as information on organizations setting healthcare quality standards.

In 2012, HPIO released its first [**Health Data Transparency Basics**](#) publication which provides an overview of the availability of transparent, accessible health data and discusses how access to information on price and quality impacts consumer choice, quality of care, healthcare spending and health outcomes. Due to growing interest in the topic, HPIO released a second iteration of the publication in 2016, [**Healthcare Data Transparency Basics**](#), which explores the rationale for healthcare price transparency, the challenges it presents and potential policy approaches at the state level to increase transparency.

Nick Wiselogel, Vice President, Strategic Communications

Health Policy Institute of Ohio
614-545-0758

10 West Broad Street, Suite 1050
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Health Policy Institute of Ohio, 10 W Broad St,
Suite 1050, Columbus, OH 43215

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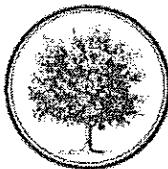


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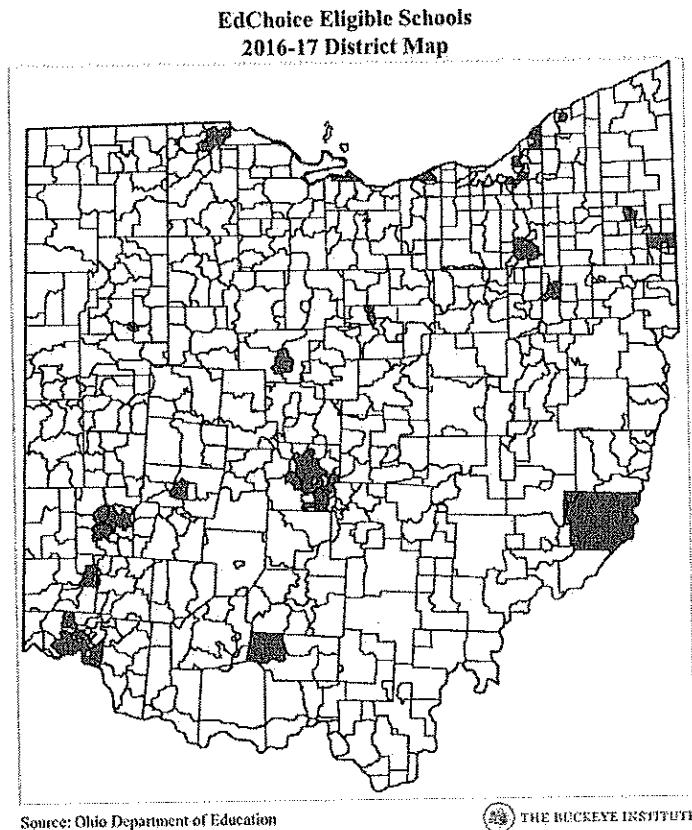
Students and Parents Are Given Little Choice When it Comes to School Choice

By Greg R. Lawson
August 31, 2017

More families in Ohio should be able have to avail themselves of school choice than are being allowed to. This is a tragedy for those seeking to escape schools that are not meeting their needs.

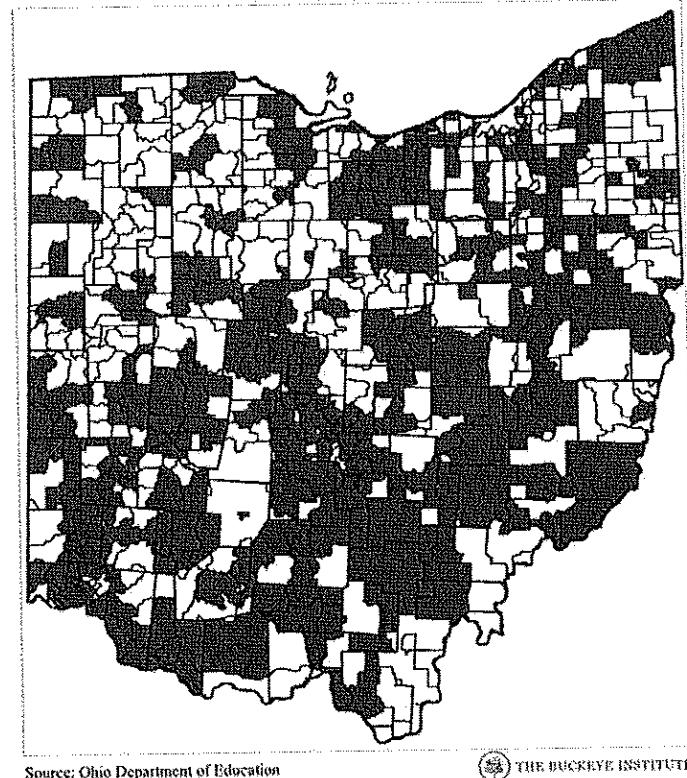
Ohio is one of only a few states where it's largest school choice program, the **EdChoice Scholarship**, is available only to those students who are assigned to failing schools. However, due to the **safe harbor** provision, which suspends the consequences of schools failing tests for the 2014-2015, 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years, many students are not eligible for EdChoice even if they are in a failing school.

For example, this map shows EdChoice eligible districts for the 2016-2017 school year after applying the safe harbor provisions. As you can see, students in only a few areas of the state are eligible.



As a comparison, this map shows how many areas would become eligible for EdChoice in the absence of the safe harbor provisions. They look radically different and show just how many students in failing would be able to take advantage of the EdChoice program if it were not for the safe harbor restriction.

Simulation – EdChoice Eligible Districts
Safe Harbor Removed



Source: Ohio Department of Education

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Another program available to lower income families is the EdChoice Expansion Program. This program allows students from lower income families to escape failing schools irrespective of the results from state testing. However, given the funding mechanism and the fewer dollars available, far fewer students are able to access the program.

There are several solutions to this sad state of affairs. First, safe harbor provisions should be eliminated so that EdChoice can function the way it was intended. Alternatively, Ohio should scrap the failing schools model completely and shift to a full income-based approach similar to how the EdChoice Expansion Program operates. Given that few states have a failing school model, this type of shift would bring Ohio closer in line with school choice programs in other states.

Even better, Ohio should move towards fully embracing education savings accounts, (ESA) as outlined in The Buckeye Institute's report, *Education Savings Accounts: Expanding Education Options for Ohio*.

The report outlines precisely how ESAs would enable parents to customize their child's education to meet his or her unique needs. For example, ESAs would allow parents to pay not only for private schools, but also allow them to use any remaining money in the account to pay for additional educational items such as textbooks, tutors, enroll students in online classes, or even save money for college.

At the end of the day, Ohio should stop short-changing parents' ability to choose the best education environment for their children. Every student has the right to be given all of the tools they need to succeed. They should not be denied due to policies that protect school systems over school students.

Greg R. Lawson is the research fellow at The Buckeye Institute.

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Hi Grace—

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Best,
Christine

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American Legislative Exchange Council
2900 Crystal Drive, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

C: (202) 309-2986
csmith@alec.org



Upcoming Meetings:

2017 States and Nation Policy Summit – December 6-8, 2017 – Nashville, Tennessee
2018 Spring Task Force Summit – April 27, 2018 – Grand Rapids, Michigan
2018 Annual Meeting – August 8-10, 2018 – New Orleans, Louisiana

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Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 10:44 AM
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Importance: High

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From: Michele Pomerantz
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 2:09 PM
To: Snider, Grace
Subject: ESSA Update... Governor Approves Ohio's ESSA Plan... What's next?

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Ohio's ESSA plan is nearing implementation.

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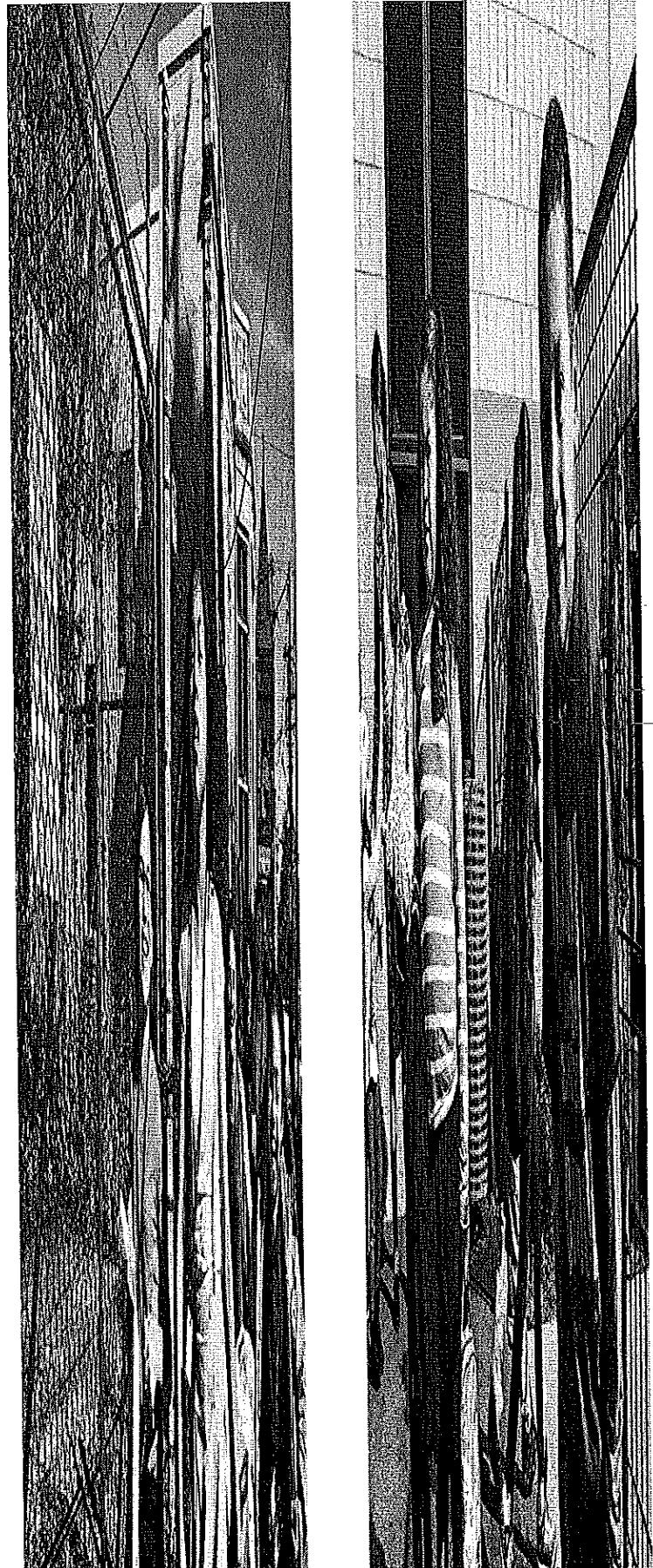
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ESSA Update

Last Friday, the Ohio Department of Education submitted the state of Ohio's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan to the U.S. Department of Education for approval. Remember, this plan is required by federal law and is the replacement legislation of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. ESSA, requires states to clearly articulate their plans for using federal funds to ensure equitable access to education. Ohio's plan has been signed by Governor Kasich and the Superintendent of Ohio's Schools, Paolo DeMaria. The next step in this process is the approval of the U.S. Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos. Currently, 13 state's ESSA plans have been approved by the U.S. Department of Education.

Ohio's ESSA plan specifies key aspects of Ohio's educational policy framework to the federal government. Key areas include:

- Educational Standards and Testing
- School District Accountability
- School Improvement Planning

The Cleveland Metropolitan School District's (CMSD) priority throughout the ESSA process has been ensuring the goals set in the Cleveland

plan legislation remain. The goal of the Cleveland Plan is to provide a multitude of quality schools in each neighborhood for families to choose from. We continue to implement these reforms and our District is showing significant progress.

Once Ohio's ESSA plan is approved by the U.S. department of education, the state will begin working with school districts to implement the plan.

CMSD will continue to work with those who influence education policy to support academic outcomes. These entities include, but are not limited to, the state legislature, the Ohio School Board, the ODE and community stakeholders.

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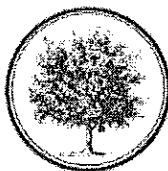
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 20, 2017

Buckeye's Greg Lawson: Government Transparency Empowers Ohioans and Increases Accountability

Columbus, OH - The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson testified (see full testimony below) today before the Ohio House Finance Committee on the DataOhio project and the transparency policies that are included in House Bill 3.

In his remarks, Lawson highlighted The Buckeye Institute's advocacy in support of government transparency saying, "Transparency helps citizens better understand what their government has done, what it is doing, and what remains to be done with their tax dollars. Fiscal transparency helps keep government accountable to the citizenry, fosters a more informed public, and facilitates a better dialogue between the people and their elected representatives."

Noting the challenges of providing fiscal transparency for Ohio's local governments, Lawson stressed the benefits of DataOhio and other transparency tools. "The DataOhio project can further promote transparency by developing a standard chart of accounts so that citizens and policymakers can make apples-to-apples comparisons of spending across diverse local governments. This would help constituents and even lawmakers make better sense of how our local governments operate."

Lawson concluded saying, "DataOhio and similar efforts can all work together as complementary tools for the common, important purpose of empowering Ohio's taxpayers to raise accountability at all levels of Ohio government."

#

**Interested Party Testimony Submitted to the
Ohio House Finance Committee on House Bill 3**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions
September 20, 2017**

Thank you Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Ryan and Ranking Member Cera for the opportunity to testify before the Ohio House Finance Committee. My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions**.

I am here with a few brief remarks regarding House Bill 3, the DataOhio project. I have previously testified about DataOhio and the need for government transparency. I appreciate the chance to revisit the issue today.

The Buckeye Institute has long championed a more transparent government that makes it easier for taxpayers to see and understand how Columbus spends their hard-earned money. Such transparency helps citizens better understand what their government has done, what it is doing, and what remains to be done with their tax dollars. Fiscal transparency helps keep government accountable to the citizenry, fosters a more informed public, and facilitates a better dialogue between the people and their elected representatives.

Recognizing the need for and challenges of providing more fiscal transparency, The Buckeye Institute developed its own searchable database for tracking state spending on salaries for state employees, K-12 teachers, four-year higher education, and select local government employees. Of course, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, and The

Buckeye Institute's database proved so popular and useful that the **Ohio Treasurer of State** and the **Office of Budget and Management** now offer even more robust services.

Despite its popularity and usefulness, The Buckeye Institute's database, as well as existing state services, are not comprehensive toolkits. For example, it does not publish information on vendor payments made by localities, and the local component that lists local government salaries remains quite limited. While the State Treasurer's office, has expanded the state's **Ohio Checkbook** database so that it now also includes many Ohio local governments, more transparency is better than less.

As time goes on, this will prove increasingly important for Ohioans seeking to understand the operations of local governments, especially in an era of potentially reduced resources.

Ohio boasts thousands of local governmental bodies and a labyrinth of taxing authorities. As The Buckeye Institute outlined several years ago.

As of October 2007, Ohio ranked seventh among states regarding the number of local governmental entities and taxing authorities according to the U.S. Census Bureau, with a staggering 3,702 entities. On average, there are more than 41 taxing authorities per county, which is 46 percent more than the national average of 28.

Ohio had the sixth highest number of municipalities (938) and townships (1,308). There are 614 school districts as well as a myriad of law enforcement and safety entities along with special district governments. Cuyahoga County alone has 104 local government entities.[1]

Without fiscal transparency for Ohio's local governments, taxpayers remain largely in the dark without ready access to vital information needed for holding their elected officials accountable.

The DataOhio project can further promote transparency by developing a standard chart of accounts so that citizens and policymakers can make apples-to-apples comparisons of spending across these diverse local governments. This would help constituents and even lawmakers make better sense of how our local governments operate—again, an increasingly important issue as the General Assembly debates the adequacy of local government resources.

DataOhio and similar efforts can all work together as complementary tools for the common, important purpose of empowering Ohio's taxpayers to raise accountability at all levels of Ohio government.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to answering any questions from the committee at this time.

[1] Lawson, Greg R., *Joining Forces: Consolidation Will Help Ohio's Local Governments if Compensation Package Costs are Properly Managed*, The Buckeye Institute, October 3, 2011.

#

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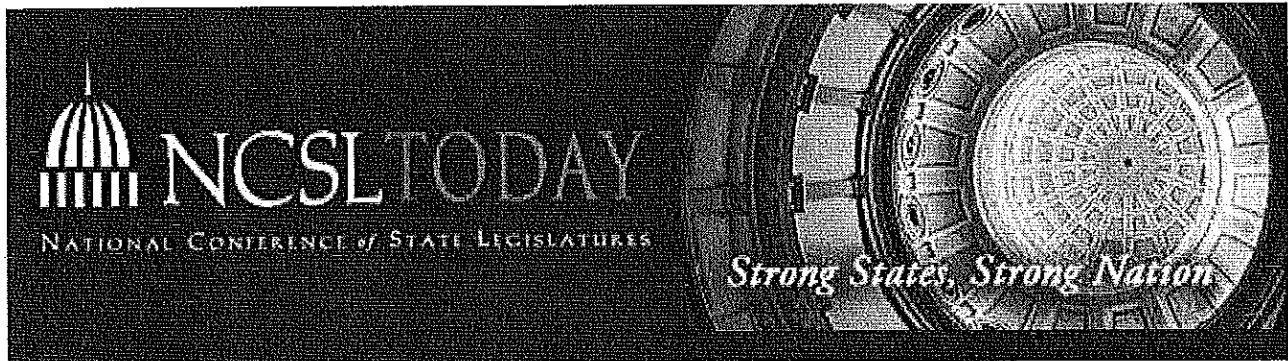
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TOP NEWS Sept. 21, 2017

After long fight, some farmers get relief from high property taxes

Stateline

Agricultural property taxes have skyrocketed and crop prices are down. Farmers are fighting back, sometimes successfully.

Not drinking or driving, more teens putting off traditional markers of adulthood

The Washington Post

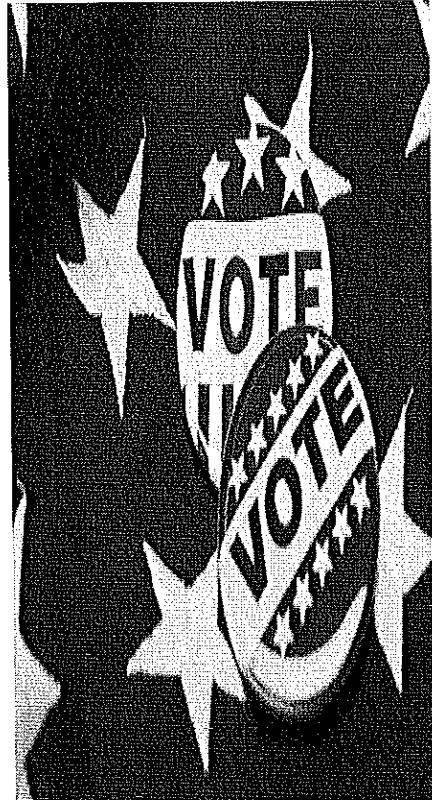
A study published Tuesday in the journal Child Development, found that the percentage of adolescents in the United States who have a driver's license, who have tried alcohol, who date and who work for pay has plummeted since 1976, with the most precipitous decreases in the past decade.

Investigation finds Iowa's largest property tax cut fails to deliver

The Des Moines Register

When Iowa passed sweeping property tax reform four years ago, state officials projected commercial taxpayers would save \$218 million this year. Lawmakers also promised to fully reimburse local governments for the revenues they stood to lose. The law has failed to deliver on both counts, a Des Moines Register review of state data shows.

Massachusetts court: Roadside drunken driving tests not valid for marijuana



BY JEFFREY MAYER FOR THE DES MOINES REGISTER

The Canvass: NCSL's elections update for September

At election administration conferences, even the most dedicated election officials start to look at their phones when someone mentions the term "common data format," or CDF.

BY JEFFREY MAYER FOR THE DES MOINES REGISTER

Associated Press

Massachusetts' highest court ruled Tuesday that field sobriety tests typically used in drunken-driving cases cannot be treated as conclusive evidence that a motorist was operating under the influence of marijuana. NCSL research on drugged driving laws.

Tennessee opioid overdose deaths jump 12% in 2016

Nashville Tennessean

There were at least 1,631 Tennesseans who died in 2016 — up from 1,451 in 2015, according to new figures from the Tennessee Department of Health. However, the number of deaths is likely higher due to inconsistencies in how counties investigate and report deaths.

NCSL research on legislative trends to prevent opioid misuse.

As protests escalate under Trump, states seek new ways to deter them

Governing

Stricter rules and penalties for protesting are being considered in nearly half the states.

11 states chosen for occupational licensing study

Register now for the NCSL Capitol Forum Dec. 10-13 in Coronado, Calif.

Preventing child and adolescent injuries and violence



Grappling with ranked-choice voting in Maine's special session

Last November, voters approved a ballot measure instituting ranked-choice voting with 52 percent of the vote. But Maine's Supreme Court quickly threw its constitutionality into question with an advisory opinion which helped add it to the special session's to-do list.



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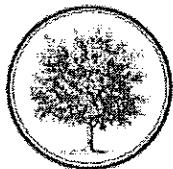
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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Time to Fight the Rising Tide of Occupational Licensing

By **Greg R. Lawson**
September 25, 2017

Recently, there has been a flood of potentially harmful legislation that risks undercutting Ohio's prosperity. Bad bills that expand burdensome occupational licensing requirements to an ever-larger number of Ohioans remains a serious impediment to creating an economically prosperous state where people are able to pursue job opportunities and career advancement without needing to seek costly, time-consuming permission from government.

Legislation that requires more and more professions to be licensed has been coming fast and furious including those licensing: **residential only building contractors, commercial roofing contractors, home inspectors, elevator and escalators installers.**

Each of these pieces of legislation are being promoted by advocates as being necessary for public safety or to protect consumers. Unfortunately, what these bills do is restrict opportunity for Ohioans seeking jobs.

As The Buckeye Institute as found in our *Forbidden to Succeed* report:

"High fees and training requirements reduce an occupation's job growth by 20 percent, as prospective workers who cannot afford to enter the occupation remain unemployed or underemployed."

Of Ohio's 31 moderate-income occupations requiring licensure, 15 require hundreds or even thousands of hours of training. Remarkably, nearly every Ohio license that requires training can be earned in less time in another state. For example, while there is pending legislation to reduce this absurd number, cosmetologists currently need 1,500 hours of education to get a license. That is **10 times** the amount of education needed to become a basic emergency medical technician that literally saves lives! That is also 500 more hours than what is needed in the seat of high fashion in America- New York!

Ohio certainly needs to require appropriate training and licensing for jobs with health and safety concerns, such as physicians and pilots, and no one disputes this. However, such concern fades dramatically when applied, for example, to **auctioneers** (that have to meet apprenticeship requirements), travel guides (**Lake Erie Fishing guides** need to pony up \$50 to be licensed), and hairdressers, all of which require licenses today in Ohio.

This burden is even more daunting for the employment prospects that are faced by many in Ohio's minority communities. Nationally, the unemployment rate among African Americans remains much higher than among other demographics. According to the **Bureau of Labor Statistics**, the most recent unemployment rate was 7.7 percent for African Americans-nearly double the 3.9 percent unemployment rate for whites. Similarly, unemployment confronts a staggering 23.4 percent of young African Americans between 16 and 19, and 11.8 percent of young whites.

Adding more licenses onto Ohioans is not going to reverse these discouraging trends.

Given these fact, it isn't surprising that there is growing non-partisan acknowledgement that licensing laws have gone too far. From The Buckeye Institute and the **Heritage Foundation** to the **Brookings Institute** to both the **Obama White House** and the

Trump Administration, there is a growing consensus that these burdensome licensing requirements are bad for everyone.

So what can be done?

We need to continue raising awareness of the issue to members of the Ohio General Assembly. The Buckeye Institute is working with a number of policymakers in order to educate them on the need for meaningful reforms. This includes **policy** that will require the state to impose the least restrictive type of occupational licensing regulation to ensure consumer protection, while also establish a sunrise and sunset review processes for existing of licensing boards and new licensing legislation. Over time, the use of these reviews will help clean up antiquated licensing requirements while preventing new ones from cluttering Ohio's laws.

We also need to continue removing burdensome requirements for specific professions. The Buckeye Institute is already working with individual salon owners and a bipartisan group of legislators, including republicans **Representative Kristina Roegner** (R-Hudson) and **Senator Kris Jordan** (R-Ostrander), and democrats **Representative Alicia Reece** (D-Cincinnati) and **Senator Charleta Tavares** (D-Columbus) to improve cosmetology policy. The goal is to build upon the successes in the **previous General Assembly** and to move towards **further reducing** burdens on cosmetologists.

Finally, we need to look at how we remove employment barriers for spouses of military personnel stationed in Ohio. Buckeye is leading the way by developing good **policy** that would recognize out-of-state licenses for military spouses.

It is inevitable that in every General Assembly there will be a series of licensing bills that risk ensnaring many Ohioans in a bureaucratic, and often expensive maze, that delays their ability to make a living and move up the ladder of success. However, working to strengthen the growing bipartisan consensus we can eliminate these burdensome regulations and ensure Ohioans can pursue job opportunities and career advancement.

Greg R. Lawson is the research fellow at The Buckeye Institute.

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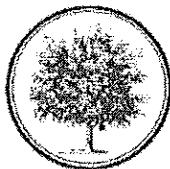
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Batter Up: Buckeye's ad to debut during Reds and Indians games

While the country debates NFL players' controversial protests of our National Anthem, The Buckeye Institute is cheering on Major League Baseball's two Ohio teams this week. We hope you are too.

The regular season is drawing to a close, and your Buckeye Institute has stepped up to the plate to hit a timely homerun.

Our new campaign has already earned media attention across the country in more than 31 radio markets with much more to come! We are also posting an editorial on [FoxNews.com](#), which we will send as soon as it goes up.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it's time to play ball: **Worker Voting Rights: Giving a Voice and Choice to Union Members** is airing during several upcoming Cleveland Indians and Cincinnati Reds games.

Mark your calendar and tune in to catch our ad live!

Game:	Date:	To Air During:	Station:
Cleveland Indians v. Minnesota Twins	Wednesday, September 27	Innings 2-3	FSN
Cleveland Indians v. Chicago White Sox	Friday, September 29	Innings 1-6	STOh & CSCh
Cincinnati Reds v. Milwaukee Brewers	Wednesday, September 27	Innings 5-6	FSW1 & FSOH
Cincinnati Reds v. Chicago Cubs	Sunday, October 1	Innings 6-9	FSOH

Visit www.WorkerVotingRights.org to learn more about this important issue.

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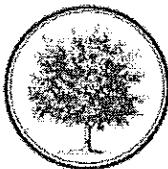
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 27, 2017

Buckeye's Daniel Dew: Reagan Tokes Act a Positive Step for Criminal Justice Reform

Columbus, OH - The Buckeye Institute's Daniel J. Dew made the following comments regarding the Reagan Tokes Act, which was unveiled today by State Representatives Jim Hughes (R-Upper Arlington) and Kristin Boggs (D-Columbus), and State Senators Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park) and Sean O'Brien (D-Bazetta). The act would move away from determinate sentencing and move toward indeterminate sentencing for certain offenses.

"Incentives matter, and the Regan Tokes Act takes a step in the right direction in keeping dangerous criminals in prison longer and incentivizing inmates to get the rehabilitation and training necessary to become contributing members of society upon release," said Daniel J. Dew, legal fellow at The Buckeye Institute's **Legal Center** and an expert in criminal justice reform. "Ninety-seven percent of all offenders sent to prison will re-enter our communities

someday, and indeterminate sentencing incentivizes rehabilitation which will help keep our communities safer."

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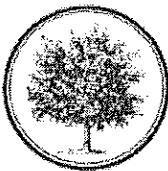
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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Don't Believe in Free Money, the Lesson of the MCO Sales Tax

By Greg R. Lawson
September 27, 2017

When something sounds **too good to be true**, it usually is. That is especially so when images of free dollars are floating in front of politicians' eyes! Hopefully, this is a lesson that will be learned by most Ohio elected officials after the affair concerning the Medicaid managed care organization (MCO) sales tax fiasco.

Before Medicaid was ever expanded in Ohio, The Buckeye Institute warned proponents multiple times (see [here](#) and [here](#)) that one of the big selling points -- the windfall revenues to be expected from the MCO sales tax -- were illusions. They would be, at best, temporary because the federal government was practically guaranteed to eliminate the ability to levy that tax.

At the time, few seemed to take notice. Then, when it happened, **exactly as predicted**, there were howls of concern. The state managed to make itself whole through a deal made with the outgoing Obama Administration. However, Ohio's counties, that were

gaining more than \$200 million from their local piggy-back sales tax, were not made whole. Throughout the entire budget process, there were efforts to raise state taxes in order to make up for this local windfall that should have always been considered temporary.

The Buckeye Institute **opposed this policy** and made clear that if new revenues are truly needed, then counties should justify the need for more taxes to their own constituents and not expect Columbus to ride to the rescue on a white horse.

According to pieces in *The Columbus Dispatch* and *The Plain Dealer*, it now appears that there will be no taxes raised at the state level to pay for local services and projects, which is as it should be. While the details of the proposal indicate up to \$80 million more might get distributed to counties from existing state resources, this will undoubtedly not be one-time deal and will continue the cycle of local governments turning to the state to pay for local services.

Next time there looks to be so-called "free" dollars, policymakers should take a much longer, harder look and remember these are all taxpayer dollars, and that it is almost certainly "too good to be true."

Greg R. Lawson is the research fellow at The Buckeye Institute.

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